EARLY CHILDHOOD IN THE POST-MGD YEARS:
SECURING A PLACE ON THE GLOBAL AGENDA

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Tack för inbjudan!
Blah...Blah...Blah

English only!
• Social welfare
  * High quality preschools
  * Play based!
This presentation ...

• What we know about the importance of early childhood

• What we must do to ensure that early childhood is a priority for the 2015-2030 SDGs.

• A RADICAL PROPOSAL
What we know:

* Early childhood = great investment

* Early education → life-long benefits

* ECD → children’s rights, including play

* ECD discourses dominated by Minority World. Greatest need in Majority World.
Many of those who set global development agenda regard early childhood as a key priority!

It’s too late if we wait until children are 5 or 6 years old!
Benefits of Early Childhood Education and Care

Source: James Heckman. See http://www.heckmanequation.org
What **EXACTLY** do we want?
What are *our* priorities?

- Health/medical care?
- Nutrition?
- WASH?
- Care and Education
- Preschools?
Roadblocks for ECD:

* Lack of consensus on priorities *within* the field

* Cultural & language differences between Majority & Minority worlds
Key Questions

* Can there be (should there be) one model for Early Childhood (Nordic model?)

- How to evaluate the outcomes of early childhood services, especially care and education.

- Can the field unite on priorities?

If we do not ... a generation lost!
Play!
Children gain confidence and do more thinking when they ... freely express ideas.
That was the preschool teacher from Kibera. Now hear the college professor.
Children in the West: **nonsense play**

African children: **meaningful play**

responsible intelligence
Western children learn to walk alone through life

African children learn to walk together through life
Kind of play the professor endorses

African children pretending to prepare a meal.
Is it really so different?

Western setting
What can *WE* do to make sure that early childhood is a priority on the world agenda?
Words:  ECD...ECE...ECEC
Recognize and reconcile differences in Western and non-Western ideals and practices.
End competition and jockeying for position within the field
Radical Proposal
Agree on a
SINGLE
PORTAL
Does not matter what the portal looks like or where it is in the world.
RADICAL PROPOSAL

Comprehensive preschool as the portal for delivering services to young children & families.

- Early education and care
- Prenatal and infant health
- Health, dental and nutrition services
- Parent education
- Social services
- Early childhood teacher education
OMEP SHOULD ENDORSE THIS SINGLE PORTAL APPROACH AND ENCOURAGE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO JOIN US

Children will receive the services from all interested sectors through the preschool
We should argue for

At least two years of free, public preschool of the highest quality possible

Incremental implementation between 2015 and 2030
Sweden (and other donor countries): Establish *and assess* comprehensive preschools in the developing world.
Visit the OMEP DVDs on You Tube. Show them to decision makers.

Show them to Colleagues.. and to students.

Find them on OMEP’s new You Tube page: Youtube OMEP
WE START HERE...NOW
Each of us joins a new choir!
ESD & WASH from the Start in every preschool!
Tack för inbjudan!