

ICEC Conference

Reducing access barriers in Early Childhood Education and Care: International perspectives on local governance

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Abstract & CV

Local governance and diversity of providers – a field of tension? Lines of segregation from a local perspective

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Contrary to the socially inclusive self-concept of early childhood education and the externally imposed demand for integration, segregation processes can be identified in early childhood services: Every now and then, the composition of ECEC services often differs distinctively. Segregation is a result of complex interactions between various individual and institutional actors, that only can be understood when considering legal regulations, socio-spatial structures as well as local planning and governing mechanisms. The relation between ECEC providers and noticeable lines of segregation is shown by drawing on a municipal example. This local empirical perspective is embedded in general thoughts on selection processes. Considering the principle of subsidiarity of the Child and Youth Welfare Services and the gap between demand and number of places available, emphasis is put on the importance of ECEC providers in processing the allocation of places. First empirical results on the meaning of selection criteria in ECEC services reveal that not only explicitly defined criteria, but also a subtle action level of ECEC services and providers can lead to specific selection processes and therewith in- and exclusion. To conclude, these thoughts are highlighted by a local example and discussed considering (missing?) local governance possibilities.

Prof Nina Hogrebe is a professor of educational sciences, focusing on the studies of childhood at the department of social work at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences. Her research interests include questions of development of competencies in childhood as well as questions of governing, evaluating and developing the educational and social system. Her focus in research are systematic inequalities at elementary level, especially forms, causes and effects of segregation in childcare.