

# The president of Chile endorses the signing of a cooperation agreement to optimize early childhood development [CA] <sup>[1]</sup>

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## AVAILABILITY

See text below.

## EXCERPTS

The Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development of Canada and the Junta nacional de jardines infantiles of Chile join forces to improve quality of life of young children.

A cooperation agreement between the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development (CEECD), based at the Université de Montréal, and the Junta nacional de jardines infantiles (JUNJI) of Chile was signed today in the presence of several dignitaries, including the President of Chili Michelle Bachelet.

"Chile is engaged in a historical process, in an unprecedented moment where preschool education is beginning to play a major role in public policies. We are convinced that promoting preschool education, and the protection of the most vulnerable children in our country, is more than a need. It is an inescapable ethical duty. JUNJI, a leader in early childhood development, has a key role to play to achieve this goal of improving the quality of child education (0 to 5 years). This agreement signed with the Centre of Excellence will help our country meet this challenge as it resolutely moves forth towards development, that is, forming from the start, as early as the first steps in life, the citizens needed to build our future" declared the JUNJI Executive vice-president, Maria Estela Ortiz Rojas.

The agreement between the two organizations dedicated to improving quality of life for young children pertains primarily to producing a Spanish version of the Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development, created by Richard E. Tremblay's CEECD team. This online resource contains the best scientific knowledge on the social and emotional development of young children. Available without charge to parents, educators and decision-makers, the encyclopedia provides the latest knowledge in lay terms on some 30 topics, including aggression, prevention of maltreatment, attachment and language development.

"We are proud to continue disseminating this knowledge through the Spanish-speaking nations of Latin America. JUNJI is a key partner, whose expertise and network will no doubt facilitate an enriching exchange of knowledge with Chile and other nations on the continent," said Richard E. Tremblay, Director of CEECD and a professor of pediatrics, psychiatry and psychology at the Université de Montréal. "This online encyclopedia results from a concerted effort by renowned international experts and was designed to provide easy access to the best available knowledge on the social and emotional development of children from conception to the age of five."

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The English version of the encyclopedia appears at [www.child-encyclopedia.com](http://www.child-encyclopedia.com) <sup>[2]</sup>

## About the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development

The Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development is a consortium of Canadian organizations that promote the best knowledge on early childhood development among the public, professionals and policymakers to help them have a positive impact on children's development.

The Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development, based at the Université de Montréal, is one of four Centres of Excellence for Children's Well-Being set up by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

## About JUNJI

JUNJI was created in Chile in 1970 as a decentralized institution having the mandate to create, plan, coordinate, promote, stimulate and supervise implementation and functioning of kindergartens. Active on all national territory, JUNJI offers services of public protection, education and food supply for about 120 000 children of 4 years old and younger living in precarious situation. JUNJI's mission is to elaborate high-quality educational programs, to contribute to the global well-being of the youngest, to promote educative training with the family, to ensure that all standards for public or private kindergartens are respected, to advise and inform in the field of early childhood education and to modernize management styles in order to successfully meet their challenges.

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- reprinted from Marketwire

**Region:** Latin America and the Carribean <sup>[3]</sup>

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