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Author: various Source: Ireland. Department of Education and Science Format: Report Publication Date: 30 Nov 1999

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About the OECD Thematic Review of ECEC and Ireland's participation:

Invited by the participating countries, OECD expert teams evaluate each country's policy, programs and provision for children from birth to compulsory school age. Prior to the review, participating countries publish a background report describing current policy and practice, and outline the challenges that ECEC policy faces in the coming years. After the expert review, the OECD publishes a country note that discusses the issues observed, and suggests solutions and recommendations for the consideration of the competent authorities.

Ireland was the first country to host an OECD review team visit as part of the second round of reviews. It was also the first country to invite a short review, focusing on access, quality and co-ordination. Prior to the visit, a background report on ECEC policy in Ireland was prepared by Carmel Corrigan of the Irish Department of Education and Science. After analysis of the background report, a review team consisting of an OECD Secretariat member and three experts with diverse analytic and policy backgrounds visited Ireland between November 18-22nd, 2002. The Ireland country note was released in September 2004.

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