



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development

Connaught Global Challenge Fund Award Lecture

Let evidence lead the way:

Findings from the UK's Effective Provision of Pre-School Education Study with Principal Investigator Dr. Edward Melhuish



Effective Provision of Pre-School Education (EPPE) is the first major study in the United Kingdom to focus specifically on the effectiveness of early years education. The large-scale, longitudinal study follows the progress and development of 4,000 children in various types of at home and pre-school settings. It explores the characteristics of different kinds of early years settings and their influences on children's early development and their later progress. It is now reporting at age 16. Dr. Melhuish's work explores the effects of student variables (gender, EAL status), family (parental SES, qualifications, home learning *etc.*) and neighbourhood characteristics on student's secondary school attendance, attitudes, social, behavioural and academic outcomes.

The next phase of EPPE, projects future trajectories based on entire family and educational histories and explores possible long-term outcomes in relation to economic indicators (employment, earning *etc.*).

Dr. Edward Melhuish is Professor of Human Development at Birkbeck, University of London and Visiting Professorial Fellow at the Institute of Education, University of London. Professor Melhuish is an internationally recognised expert in the study of child development and has extensive experience with longitudinal studies. He is a veteran of banging at the doors of government, demanding that robust research be used in the formulation of policy. As principal investigator of studies of early education and family life in the 1980s, he had considerable influence on sections of the 1989 Children Act. He has also conducted research on child development, parenting and childcare in several European countries, on behalf of the European Commission.

A father of five, Dr. Melhuish is unwavering in his conviction that research should always have one eye on the impact it can make on the real lives of children. He continues this approach as a Principal Investigator on the EPPE projects.

In addition, Professor Melhuish is Executive Director of the National Evaluation of Sure Start. His work addresses the cognitive, language and behavioural development of young children and the role of family factors, home environment, childcare and pre-school experience upon children's development.

April 26, 2013

3:00 – 4:30 PM

OISE, University of Toronto 252 Bloor Street West; Library--Main Floor
Reception to follow on the 12th floor, NEXUS Lounge

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