

# Pre-schoolers missing out on education

Autor(en): **Brühlmann, Trudi**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **75 (2009)**

Heft [2]

PDF erstellt am: **30.05.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-944418>

## **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern.

Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden.

Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

## **Haftungsausschluss**

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

# Pre-schoolers missing out on education

Switzerland is neglecting the education of pre-school children, according to the Swiss Unesco committee, which has launched the first in-depth study of the issue. With only 23 per cent of three to four year olds attending some form of pre-school, Swiss children have a lot of catching up to do with their European counterparts. The European average was 65 per cent.

At 0.2 per cent of GDP, Switzerland spends less than half of the level recommended by the OECD on pre-school education and significantly less than its neighbours. Pre-school education has been neglected for so long because society did not perceive the need for it. However, in recent years several Swiss studies have shown the significant skills difference between children entering the school system, depending on their previous exposure to education.

Pre-school education plays a key role in future success, academic and otherwise, and also helps to overcome initial learning difficulties, according to the

Unesco committee. The committee warns that the race is already lost before children start school, claiming that "the unequal starting chances that have been ac-



Never too young to learn

cepted in such a matter-of-fact way are the major injustice of our educational system."

In a bid to streamline and improve the fragmented education system, a new harmonisation programme has been put together by the directors responsible for education in the cantons. Known as HarmoS, the reform package includes compulsory schooling from the age of four.

Every school will be obliged to offer extra care options to families outside the traditional school day, such as school meals or supervised homework.

The teaching of foreign languages will be harmonised and it will not be obligatory to begin with one of the other national languages.

*from swissinfo*

*Comment:* How come we turned out the way we did, since most of us missed out on this vital early childhood education? I didn't even attend kindergarten, as the only existing kindergarten was deemed to be too far away! I spent my pre-

school years at home with my mum and sister and played with the many other children in our street. And although I escaped the education system till I was 7 years old, I learnt a lot before I was 7; my mum let me 'help' even with jobs she would have accomplished in half the time without my help, and she told me stories and answered my questions... *tb*

## Recommended airlines are clearly marked with a cross.

QUALITY, **SWISS** MADE.

Quality: we owe it to the symbol painted on our aircraft. The Swiss cross stands for high quality standards in all we do to live up to our commitment. SWISS received the 2007 Business Traveller Award distinction of Best Airline for European Service. Particularly noted as outstanding were the airline's cabin crew, cabin comfort, lounges and service on the ground. Contact your local bonded Travel Agent for further information on SWISS airfares. Visit [SWISS.COM](http://SWISS.COM) to find out all the other things we do to make each and every flight as comfortable as possible for our guests.

[SWISS.COM](http://SWISS.COM)

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

