

## Policy Support Plan of Happy Environments for Child-raising (Happy Child)

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Due to the insufficient support of Childcare facilities and the lack of facility standards on a national level, there is not only high demand for increased supply, but more importantly the need for drastic measures of improvement in the overall design standards of Childcare facilities. Thus, this study prepares the framework based on the analysis of the existing city organization, the distribution of existing Childcare facilities, and its locational characteristics, in order to set the base for a comprehensive improvement plan in Childcare facilities.

The analysis of the existing childcare facilities was divided into 4 different categories of consideration: the general present condition of Childcare facilities, its architectural condition, its planning condition and the state of political support. The study emphasized the importance of the physical environmental standards of childcare facilities as it is one of the key factors contributing towards a healthy development in cognitive, language and social skills for young children.

The study further asserted the importance of childcare facilities creating an environment which is not only comfortable and convenient, but is responsive to the essential educational development of young children. Therefore, aligned with the above mentioned aspects, the study

aimed to suggest the building and site design standards for childcare facilities, and the pragmatic aspects of a financial childcare support mechanism.

The study investigated the childcare facilities programme and standards of the United States, Japan, and Australia to draw implications from overseas models. The study examined the design standards, spatial organization and physical attributes of childcare facilities in each case. The study, in particular, focused on the Reggio Emilia approach which is widely recognized by childcare experts as a successful model. In conclusion, the study revealed that many cases from abroad had established a systematic facilities and environment plan according to different age groups, which places an urgency to establish the groundwork for spatial and environmental standards of childcare facilities in Korea as well.

The analysis also revealed that in order to achieve improvements in childcare facilities and its environment there needs to be a collaborative effort between the central and local governments. This places an emphasis on the need for a local action plan through ordering a municipal ordinance by each individual local government, and also the provision of appropriate guidelines. Promoting good design projects should also be part of the local governments' efforts for the overall improvement of childcare facilities.

Lastly, for the analysis of the architectural and physical attributes of childcare facilities, the study examined the distribution of facilities and local attributes according to childcare facilities distribution, spatial assessment that affect the quality of childcare facilities, accessibility according to areas of different housing type, and site assessment. By doing this the study isolated areas of poor accessibility, analyzed its causes, and suggested possible support measures for improvement for that particular area. This approach was taken due to the fact that an uniform standard - which does not respond to the different locational characteristics -

would have little or no effect in achieving the desired overall improvement of childcare facilities.

Therefore, the study proposed the 'Use Measurement of Childcare Facilities Spatial Infrastructure' as the basis for evaluating basic surroundings of a childcare facility, through the use of quantitative measurements in the decision making process(i.e. site selection process).

Conclusively, the study suggested that the problems of childcare facilities can be categorically divided into identifying three different spatial areas - primary support areas, preservation and improvement areas, and areas targeting maintenance and management of the surroundings- through its urban and spatial analysis, and proposed further investigation that can be carried out to establish the "Long-term Comprehensive Measurement of the Environmental Improvement for Childcare Facilities".

**Keywords : Childcare Facilities, Environmental Improvement, Spatial and Environmental Standards, Evaluating Basic Surroundings**