

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910739466103321
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Titolo	Early childhood care and education and equality of opportunity : theoretical and empirical perspectives on social challenges // by Kaspar Burger
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Wiesbaden, : Springer VS, 2013
ISBN	3-658-01212-9
Edizione	[1st ed. 2013.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (235 p.)
Disciplina	362.71
Soggetti	Child care Early childhood education
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Equality of opportunity in view of social inequalities.- New contributions to early childhood care and education research -- Effects of early childhood care and education programs on intellectual development.- History of childcare in France and in the United States. - Desire, language, and education in early childhood.- Multiple methodical approaches -- Implications for practice and research.
Sommario/riassunto	Early childhood care and education has become a key issue in social science as well as in politics. In many countries, different actors increasingly use early childhood programs to tackle a variety of societal challenges. The studies collected in this book contribute theoretical and empirical dimensions to a body of research that has neglected a number of questions to date. They analyze (1) the effects of early childhood care and education on the development of children from different social backgrounds, (2) sociocultural disparities in the use of childcare services, (3) the history of childcare in France and the United States of America since the creation of the first formal daycare facilities, and (4) the interplay of desire for linguistic proficiency, acquisition of language, and educational processes in early childhood (this study is published in German). By examining different phenomena using various methodologies, these studies add pedagogical, sociological, and historical perspectives to the scholarly discourse on early childhood care and education. Contents · Equality of

opportunity in view of social inequalities · New contributions to
early childhood care and education research · Effects of early
childhood care and education programs on intellectual development
· History of childcare in France and in the United States
· Desire, language, and education in early childhood · Multiple
methodical approaches · Implications for practice and
research Target groups · Researchers and students in
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