



Arabian Child Post Conference Report

The Power of Partnership

+100 delegates
Police – Social – Health – Education – Media
United Arab Emirates – Saudi Arabia – Oman



The Power of Partnership

26 and 27th November 2014
Dubai, Grand Hyatt Hotel





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Event Overview

The Arabian Child Leadership Institute is dedicated to increasing and enhancing the knowledge base, skills and competencies of the early childhood administrator through providing opportunities for advanced training, professional growth, networking and support.

This year, through their annual conference, the Arabian Child Leadership Institute highlighted the importance of working in partnership in education, health and social care, to ensure children’s and young people’s development and wellbeing.

This conference rested on the strong beliefs that leaders who attend specialised training programs and work in partnership are more likely to achieve high quality service for young children. Through partnerships, investments are maximized, resources are efficiently used and best outcomes are achieved; creating better possibilities for success for our next generations.



Innovative, effective and current!
You would expect nothing less from Arabian Child and their partners.





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Number of Attendees

100 +

This conference was held in partnership with

Police Scotland College

We would like to thank our supporters

Ministry of Social Affairs

International Montessori Nursery Abu Dhabi

Our Media Partners

Pearl Radio

Mother Baby and Child Magazine

The workshops in this event were certified by

CACHE (UK)

This year, and for the first time, our conference highlighted the importance of working in partnership with police, health professionals, educators, parents, and social workers to achieve child protection and well-being.





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Topics presented and discussed

Day 1

- Opening ceremony
- Introduction to the importance of partnerships to ensure the protection and well-being of children in the Middle East.
- The role of media in child protection and child well-being.
- Leadership skills in creating and maintaining effective partnerships.
- Introduction to child protection, child rights, and the UAE Law for Children's Rights.
- Partnering to advocate for children's rights and wellbeing, successful advocacy skills used by leading organizations in the world.
- Challenges and barriers to effective partnership working
- The importance of working in partnership with colleagues, parents, professionals and organizations.
- The role of social workers and working in partnership to ensure an integrated service for children.
- The role of health and medical doctors in child protection.
- Children with special needs, the challenges that they face and the risk of child abuse and neglect.





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Day 2

- Opening ceremony and summary of day 1.
- A look at partnerships from the perspective of the Abu Dhabi Police Social Support Service.
- The role of early years' leaders to work in partnership with parents to ensure children's protection and wellbeing, highlighting the dangers of online abuse and implementing policies for e-safety.
- International examples. Saudi Arabia: social workers discuss their challenges for child protection and working with agencies from the police and medical sectors.
- The perspective of government universities, and their role in preparing professionals that are able to work in partnership with other organizations to ensure safety and wellbeing of children.
- The role of the police in investigating and responding to cases of child abuse and neglect and the importance of partnerships working and its effect on protecting children





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Speakers at the Arabian Child Conference:

Gillian Hall: Detective, Scottish Police College, UK

Dr. Mary Smith: Head of Government's Children's Services and Lecturer at Edinburgh University, UK.

Barbara Knaap: International Montessori, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Dr. Clifton Chadwick: British University in Dubai, UAE.

Dr. Hiba Shatta: Child's Learning Enrichment Medical Center, Dubai, UAE.

Jeff Price: Pearl Radio Dubai, UAE.

Kate Dicker: World Wide Kids Company, UK.

Dr. Michal Grivna: Associate Professor, Institute of Public Health, College of Medicine & Health Science, UAE University

Micheal Allen: Assistant Provost, Zayed University, Dubai, UAE.

Rula Abulghod: Dreamland Nursery, Al Ain, UAE.

Salma Alaali: Social Worker, Children's Hospital, Saudi Arabia.

Samia Kazi: Chief Operating Officer, Arabian Child, Dubai, UAE.

Tariq Kashmiri: Chairman, Arabian Child, Dubai, UAE.

First Lieutenant Mohammed Sulaiman Al Shehhi, Manager of Social Support Centres,





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Summary of Presentations and Discussions

The main theme of this year’s Arabian Child’s conference was “The Power of Partnerships.” This theme provided a contextualization for the talks that touched upon the role of government entities, organizations and individuals to ensure that all actions concerning children keep the protection of children’s rights as a priority. The presentations revolved around different aspects of children’s wellbeing: education, health, and safety, with an emphasis on child protection viewed as a national priority and the importance of prevention and early intervention.

At a macro level, speakers from the United Arab Emirates and from Saudi Arabia presented examples of their respective government’s initiatives for the prevention and management of children’s abuse and for safeguarding the security and safety of children and families (namely, the Social Support Centres in Abu Dhabi, (Ministry of Interior) and the Centre for Abused Children (Ministry of Health) in Saudi Arabia). Offering an international perspective, the Scottish Police College presented an overview of child protection in the Scottish context. A common denominator running through these initiatives was their multi-agency approach, involving different sectors: police, social work, health, education as well as international partners.

Sharing of best practices was a key aspect of the conference, as diverse speakers shared their own experience and contribution to ensure children’s development in a safe environment. Various institutions, centres and nurseries discussed their approach to partnership in their efforts to maximize children’s opportunities to success, from quality education (focused on critical thinking skills) to the provision of support mechanisms (particularly for disadvantaged children). ‘Getting it right for every child’ emerged as a strong message in the discussions, mainly in terms of the provision for children with learning difficulties who can be strongly benefitted from professionals working in partnership.

The conference approached children’s development and safety from a comprehensive perspective, and extended an invitation to governments as well as individual organizations and professionals to get out of their ‘comfort zone’ and explore new routes to build effective linkages and partnerships that create supportive environments for children’s growth. This topic leads us to think of the ways forward; how we can bring this knowledge and these efforts together; how to teach children to think critically and make safe choices; how to support parents to make deliberate decisions; and how to guide the community to keep each other safe by emphasizing children’s emotional maturity, professionals’ disposition to work collaboratively and the community’s level of social responsibility.





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Q & A Section

Sample of key questions asked during the discussion panels.

Q: What is the role of the government to promote partnerships?

- The government directs the vision that partnerships play in order to intervene early. It starts with awareness and moves on to more action-driven stages.

Q: What's the role of parents to protect and educate?

- Parents play an extremely important role, so we have to support them, help them manage risks, engage them. They need to educate and set limits, for example, with technology. They need to be aware of quality time. At what age should a child have a cellular phone, an ipad, etc.? Children are not selective about what they should do or watch. There is not sufficient monitoring.

Q: What is the police doing to increase children's safety and protection?

- There is a general assumption that police is for crisis and security, but this perception is changing in the UAE. The police is moving towards the field of social support. They are diversifying, expanding from previous roles and changing their way of working by offering support rather than doing investigations. They have 3 main goals: prevention, specialized professionals to provide support and partner with other communities. Here in the UAE the police is recognized, yet they cannot make children safe without partners. Social policing is a good example.

Q: Role of the media to change opinions and educate adults.

- The media plays a significant role. The media is a strategic partner as it can reach out to audiences. For example, the session with Arabian Child earlier this week generated visits and calls from parents and the community. The media helps projects and initiatives to be known.
- However, there is a love-hate relationship with the media. It is essential for disseminating information but it may also spread incorrect information provided by the wrong sources, hindering progress and altering public's perspective. Media is powerful but it may cherry-pick stories and take sides.
- Media can also offer a voice, for example, CMN was created to offer a voice to children and support parents. The incredible reach of media may have an effect on children. Thus there is a need for parental and teacher education. Media has a crucial responsibility to promote change and improvement.

Q: The UAE is a young country, what's the way to move forward?

- The UAE has the opportunity to start where everyone ends. The UAE has the opportunity to explore best practices elsewhere before making decisions. Best practices inspire us, but they are not enough.



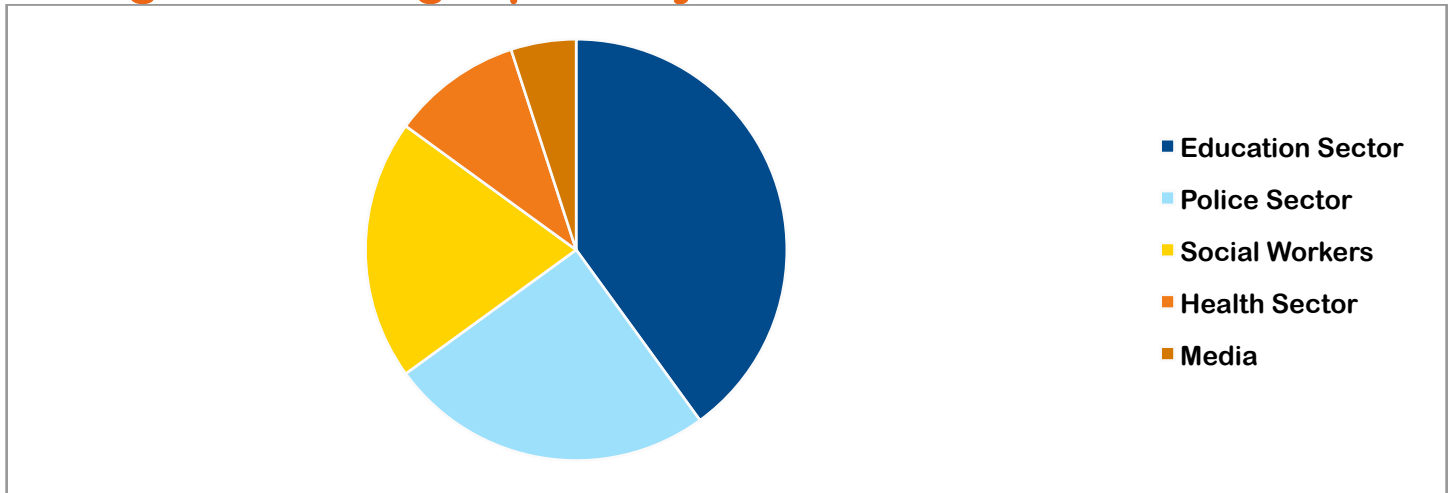


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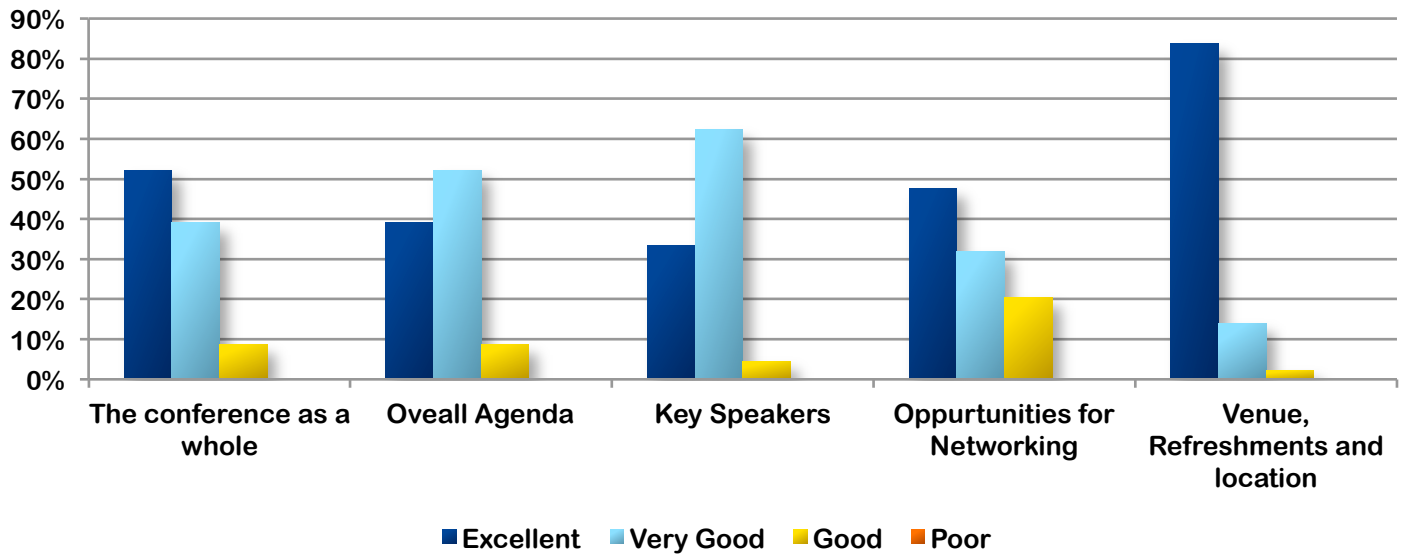
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Delegate Demographic by sector



Delegate evaluation of conference





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Testimonials from delegates:

"I really learnt new things that will benefit me in the future as I will deal with children"

"The partnership, participation and critical thinking with Dr. Clifton Chadwick was really interesting and I enjoyed it a lot."

"The topics were interesting and beneficial."

"Very interesting topics and useful information, Thanks! *Getting it right for all children* is really the summary of conference."

"There is a lot of strategies that have been used, opened our eyes to focus on the children."

"It was good opportunity for me to attend this conference. I like most session 1, it was nice idea to use ipad in the classroom but we need to have e-safety system."

"It is really beneficial for us as educators, there are many things and ideas that we could use and implement."

"All the conferences were very helpful to use, especially Dr. Chadwick covered all what we need to know."

"Excellent conference and a great benefit of the community, favorite part is the modeling of partnership from Arabian Child, those partners brought in to share knowledge."

"I think it open my perspective on work opportunities towards special need kids, inclusion and protection and I love the child center focus and the power of partnership."

"Educating teachers and child care givers to deal with children and to report any suspicion. Pearl FM Radio speech was perfect. Child Inclusion is very important issue and should be considered in all educational institutions."

"The conference holds a strong subject; speakers were good; some of them are interesting others are good but I think they should have involved visitors more in discussion."

"Wonderful event, interesting information and on the pulse of change"

"Competent speakers and very informative sessions."

"I was really impressed by numbers and statistics during Dr. Hibah's session and media was impressive as well."

"Strong speakers, variety of topics and well designed. It will impulse partnerships with special needs





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providers".

"I hope to learn more about how we can make children think critically, because I believe that it is an important skill children must learn".

"I think it would be great if Dr. Clifton went in depth with how to teach kids to think critically."

"Focus on the child's education and different ways that we can develop the teachers to use critical thinking".

"May be it will be more interesting if we have practice on some activities such as case study, workshop. Add video which support speakers, ideas and you may use poll everywhere app to get our responses".

"Engaging more health professionals in such conferences, especially those dealing with children".

"Every time I attend Arabian Child Conference, I feel very motivated and willing to do change immediately and would like to be more involved with Arabian Child."

"Building children to be future leaders, effective partnership with parents, bridging gap of nanny care/values."

"Make idea to let the presentation more interesting like add some trainings, games, videos from reality that will touch our hearts. Speakers should think about their way to present the subject in a nicer way, I think they can be more inspirational".

"In my opinion children's abuse subject must be discussed more so that people become more comfortable to speak about it and report accidents abuse as well".

"More brainstorming, workshops, local case studies and give chance to audience to take part in the conference and share suggestions."

"Being a partnership with Arabian Child."

"Please promote the use of 'Person First language', all children are children first and the disability is second i.e. child with autism, child with a hearing loss or any disability."





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