Early Childhood Education

World Vision Afghanistan works to improve preschool opportunities for children and enhance parenting skills of their caregivers. In each Early Childhood Education (ECE) space, children are involved in age-appropriate educational and play activities, based upon a specific learning curriculum.

Achievements

- 95% of children who have attended ECE sessions scored high on school readiness.
- 80% of children who have participated in ECE have been ranked in the top five students in their primary school grades.
- Teachers have reported that ECE children demonstrate more self-confidence and good relational skills.

How we do it

**Children** between the ages of 5 to 6 come together for nine months to participate in preschool learning opportunities that provide them a chance to socialize and give them the basis they need to succeed when they enter formal education. We also provide emergent literacy, numeracy and foundational life skills for them.

**Caregivers** receive extensive lessons in parenting skills, and health and hygiene practices during sessions. The children’s health improves as their caregivers implement what they have learned. They get a better start on life when their mothers go for prenatal medical exams, give birth with a skilled birth attendant, and properly feed their infants from the beginning.

**Disability** – Children with the kind of disabilities that do not prevent them from benefitting from the nature of the ECE project activities are being encouraged and enabled to participate.

**Protection** – Training on child rights and protection increases awareness of child protection issues in the communities and individual families.

FAST FACTS

- Less than 1 per cent of children between 3 and 6 attend some form of early childhood education programme in Afghanistan.
- 2.3 million School age children are still out of school and 75 percent of them are girls.
- 57% of girls are married before the legal age of 16. The government estimates that 60-80% of all marriages are forced.

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