

# Foreword

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Dear readers,

This, specialized, issue of the Croatian Journal of Education presents nineteen papers on the topic of Play and Playing in the Early Childhood. The papers were presented at the International Scientific Conference OMEP<sup>1</sup> which took place in Zagreb from May 8-11, 2013 in partnership with the Faculty of Teacher Education, University of Zagreb. The aim of the Conference was to direct the attention of the national, international, scientific and professional public to the educational potential of playing and re-attach to it the value of the most important, leading child activity - a phenomenon of childhood, children's practice and the most natural manner of learning at the early and preschool age.

In terms of their quality the papers are classified as follows: five original research papers, nine review papers, and five preliminary papers. The content of these papers indicates the richness of research topics in the area of playing which authors approach from various perspectives. Contemporary topics such as: children's right to play, how contemporary children play, the influence of television and other media on play, children's understanding of the world through play, viewing play from a children's perspective, etc. are represented in these papers. One will be able to read about the educational historical-national approach to play by Antonia Cvijić, the attitudes preschool teachers have about play, playing in heterogeneous age groups, toys and playing, traditional plays and the role of playing in the social, language, and cognitive development of a child. The modern approach is evident in the methodological twist towards a quality research approach in some papers in which authors found areas for researching children's play and improving conditions for its implementation in the space between the traditional, at times unjustified, division into theory and practice.

The majority of the papers entail research of play in early and preschool education (16 out of 19) since play is imminent in early childhood development and represents a definite contribution to the development and education of a human being. Several of the presented research studies which were conducted in lower primary school grades aim to motivate and encourage teachers to use play more frequently as a methodological approach to educational content.

The international character of this issue is evident in the balance of national and international papers. By enabling works of domestic authors to be present on the international scene through the Journal, the scientific research in the area of education achievements was also promoted.

The Editorial Board is of the opinion that this issue of the Journal will in its entirety affirm the research of play, promote the international perspective of play and its contribution to contemporary childhood, contribute to reducing the gap between theory and practice and remind readers of the joy, beauty, happiness and simplicity of learning through play.

Editorial Board

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<sup>1</sup> OMEP (Organisation Mondiale pour l'Education Préscolaire) is an international, non-governmental and non-profit organization dealing with all aspects of education in early childhood. It was established in Paris in 1948. OMEP defends and promotes the rights of children to education across the world and supports activities which improve the availability of a quality education and welfare of children.

# Uvodnik

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Dragi čitatelji,

*u ovom broju specijalnog izdanja Hrvatskog časopisa za odgoj i obrazovanje objavljujemo devetnaest znanstvenih radova o temi „Igra u ranom djetinjstvu“ (Play and Playing in the Early Childhood). Radovi su izloženi na Međunarodnoj znanstvenoj konferenciji OMEP<sup>2</sup> održanoj u Zagrebu od 8. do 11. svibnja 2013. godine u akademskom partnerstvu s Učiteljskim fakultetom Sveučilišta u Zagrebu. Cilj konferencije bio je usmjeriti pozornost domaće i inozemne, znanstvene i stručne javnosti na odgojno-obrazovni potencijal igre i vratiti igri vrijednost najvažnije, vodeće dječje aktivnosti, fenomenu djetinjstva, djetetovoj praksi i najprirodnijem obliku učenja u ranoj i predškolskoj dobi.*

*Po svojoj vrsnoći radovi su razvrstani kako slijedi: pet je izvornih znanstvenih radova, devet su pregledni radovi, a pet su prethodna priopćenja. Sadržaji radova ukazuju na bogatstvo istraživačkih tema u području igre kojoj autori pristupaju iz različitih perspektiva. U radovima su obuhvaćene suvremene teme kao što su: pravo djece na igru, kako se igraju suvremena djeca, djelovanje televizije i drugih medija na igru, dječje razumijevanje svijeta putem igre, sagledavanje igre iz dječje perspektive i sl. Obrađuju se i pedagoški povijesno-nacionalni pristup igri Antonije Cvijić, stavovi odgojitelja o igri, igre u dobno heterogenim skupinama, igračke i igra, tradicijske igre, kao i uloga igre u socijalnom, jezičnom, tjelesnom i kognitivnom razvoju djeteta. Suvremenost se očituje i u metodologiskom zaokretu prema kvalitativnom istraživačkom pristupu u nekim radovima u kojima autori svoj prostor za proučavanje dječje igre i unapređivanje uvjeta za njezino odvijanje traže između klasične, nekad i neopravdane, podjele na teoriju i praksu.*

*Većina radova obuhvaća istraživanje igre u ranom i predškolskom odgoju i obrazovanju (16 od ukupno 19 objavljenih radova) jer je igra imanentna odrastanju u ranom djetinjstvu i predstavlja neupitan doprinos razvoju i odgoju ljudske jedinke. Nekolicina prikazanih istraživanja provedenih u nižim razredima primarnog obrazovanja ima kao cilj potaknuti i ohrabriti učitelje na veće korištenje igre u metodičkom pristupu odgojno-obrazovnim sadržajima.*

*Putem Časopisa domaći se autori uključuju u međunarodnu stručnu javnost i promoviraju se znanstveni dosezi istraživanja u području odgoja.*

*Uredništvo vjeruje da će sadržaj ovog broja Časopisa u cjelini afirmirati istraživanja igre, promovirati međunarodnu perspektivu o igri i njezinu doprinosu suvremenom djetinjstvu, pridonijeti ublažavanju podjelenosti između teorije i prakse, kao i podsjetiti čitatelje na užitak, ljepotu, radost i lakoću učenja putem igre.*

Uredništvo

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<sup>2</sup>OMEP (Organisation Mondiale pour l'Education Préscolaire) je međunarodna, nevladina i neprofitna organizacija koja se bavi svim aspektima odgoja i obrazovanja u ranom djetinjstvu. Osnovana je 1948. godine u Parizu.

OMEP brani i promiče prava djece na odgoj i obrazovanje u svijetu i podržava aktivnosti koje poboljšavaju dostupnost visokokvalitetnog obrazovanja i skrbi za djecu.