



Introducing the OMEP-UK Early Childhood Education for Sustainable Citizenship Award

Every child, family and Early Years' setting involved in the Award develops an awareness of children's rights as citizens of the world. On enrolling each child receives a passport. In addition to providing discounted access to venues such as conservation parks, arboretums, museums, etc., to use with their families at weekends or while on holiday, children also use their passport to record their engagement in family fun award *'i-care' booklets*. Each booklet lists ten activities for children to engage in with their families (there are 5 at each Award level) and, upon achievement of these activities, the early years' setting supply award eco-stickers for children to celebrate and record their achievements in their passports.



There are five family fun *i-care' booklets*, which relate to the three pillars of sustainability, 'social-cultural sustainability', 'environmental sustainability', and 'economic sustainability' and, in order to become wholly sustainable citizens, we also include booklets to support enjoyment in sustainable early literacy and numeracy – providing strong foundations for parent partnership and setting collaboration.



Children also engage in activities in the setting, which build upon what each child *'can do'* and what they *'know'*. The Award offers **a truly child-centred approach to learning about sustainability through meaningful activities in free-flow play.**

Activities not only support children's developing empathy and care for others, but also care and respect for wildlife, learning to respect and take responsibility for their outdoor environment where they engage in practical conservation activities and develop greater awareness of and respect for cultural diversity and equality both locally and globally. Children also learn to be 'economic' in their activities; they learn about thrift; about repairing and reusing resources; and the conservation of resources, such as water, electricity, paper towels and paint. All offered in free-play, self-chosen activities – activities **recognising that every child is unique.**



The Sustainable Citizenship Ideas guide (available to purchase separately) offers sustainable activity ideas *linked to what children already know and can do*, and with all the activities contributing to the EYFS *supporting each child's holistic development and their learning outcomes*. The OMEP-UK Award enables sustainability to be embedded into early years' learning through free-flow play and through a wide range of daily routines and activities.

Each early childhood setting also engages in a progression of curriculum audits, to assess their current offering against either the Bronze, Silver and Gold level Award levels, depending upon which level they are hoping to achieve and work towards an area of development to improve children's engagement in sustainability.

**How does my setting sign up? Please email: escomepuk@gmail.com
Annual membership is just £35. The initial cost of passports and stickers at Bronze level is only £4 per child. The Passport (recycled paper) will stay with each child through Silver and Gold levels.**

