

Supplementary Materials A

Funding agencies in the Scandinavian countries:

2006-2019: Norwegian Ministry for Education and Research

2006-2019: Danish Evaluation Institute (EVA)

2006-2017: Swedish National Agency for Education

2020-2021: Norwegian Directorate of Education

Responsible for conducting the annual review process:

2006-2012: Danish Clearinghouse for Educational Research (DCU, University of Aarhus, Denmark)

2013-2014: The National Research Centre for Welfare (SFI, Denmark)

2015-2017: Danish Clearinghouse for Educational Research (DCU, University of Aarhus, Denmark)

2018-2021: Knowledge Centre for Education (KSU, University of Stavanger, Norway)

and FILIORUM - Centre for research in early education and care (University of Stavanger, Norway)

Trends in Scandinavian ECEC Research

Supplementary Materials B

- Guldbrandsen, A., Friestad, N.K., & Klippen, M.I.F. (2024). *Empirical Research on Scandinavian Early Childhood Education and Care in 2021; Review of research and assessment*. Report No. 2/2024 (**in press**), Knowledge Centre for Education, University of Stavanger
- <https://www.nb-ecec.org/kortlaegninger/rapportnb-ecec-nor-2020.pdf> [Research mapping and research assessment of Scandinavian day care research from 2020]
- [Forskningskortlægning, -vurdering og perspektivering af skandinavisk dagtilbudsforskning fra 2018-2019](#) [Research mapping and research assessment of Scandinavian day care research from 2018-2019]
- [Forskningskortlægning, -vurdering og perspektivering af skandinavisk dagtilbudsforskning fra 2017](#) [Research mapping and research assessment of Scandinavian day care research from 2017]
- [Forskningskortlægning, -vurdering og perspektivering af skandinavisk dagtilbudsforskning fra 2016](#) [Research mapping and research assessment of Scandinavian day care research from 2016]
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Trends in Scandinavian ECEC Research

- [Forskningskortlægning og forskervurdering af skandinavisk dagtilbudsforskning fra 2012](#) [Research mapping and research assessment of Scandinavian day care research from 2012]
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Trends in Scandinavian ECEC Research

Supplementary Materials C

Search string:

In Norwegian, the following terms are used: barnehage OR familiebarnehage OR åpen barnehage. In Swedish, the terms being used are daghem OR förskola OR dagtilbud OR daginstitusjon OR lekskola OR förskolepedagogik OR familjedaghem OR dagis OR pedagogisk omsorg OR öppen förskola. In Danish, the search terms were dagpleje OR vuggestue OR småbørnspædagogik OR børnehave OR integrerede institutioner. Aiming to identify relevant studies, we also searched international databases and journals using the following terms from 2006 to 2017: AB (early childhood education OR preschool education OR kindergarten) AND GE (Norway OR Sweden OR Denmark). Due to the increased number of studies published in English, we extended the search in English from 2018 to 2020 using more synonyms from ECEC. The search string was quality assured by experts in the field. The following search string was used: "child care centre" OR "child care centre" OR "child development centre" OR "child development centre" OR "child* academic development" OR "crèche" OR "day care" OR "daycare" OR "day-care" OR "early child* care" OR "early child* education" OR "early child* intervention*" OR "early child* program*" OR "early child* services" OR "early education* provision" OR ecc OR ecec OR ece OR kindergarten OR "nursery school" OR "pre K" OR "pre-kindergarten" OR "pre-school" OR "pre-K" OR "pre-kindergarten" OR "pre-primary education" OR "preschool" OR "pre-school" OR toddler*) AND GE (Norway OR Sweden OR Denmark).

Supplementary Materials D

Eligibility criteria	Included	Excluded
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Trends in Scandinavian ECEC Research

Topic	Studies focusing on factors related to public and private ECEC-provisions, covering aspects like tasks, content, working methods, quality, organization, management, and ECEC policy at various levels.	Studies focusing on health-related topics or ECEC teachers in education.
Target group	Studies focusing on children (0-6 years), all ECEC staff (assistants, teachers, managers), parents, teacher students, educators, representatives from municipalities, policymakers, and other stakeholders in the ECEC field.	Studies conducted outside Denmark, Sweden, or Norway. From 2021: Studies focusing on the Swedish pre-school class.
Evidence	Studies must meet research evidence criteria, including: a contextualization of the study within relevant theoretical or empirical research (alternatively an research, question, aim, purpose,	Studies that do not present empirical data.

Trends in Scandinavian ECEC Research

	<p>objective or hypothesis), clear design and methods</p> <p>description, presentation of results related to the research question(s), a discussion in relation to existing theoretical or empirical research</p> <p>conclusions, and.</p>	
Publication type	<p>Included are article-based PhD dissertations (2006-2019), PhD monographs and Licentiate dissertations from Sweden (2006-2019).</p>	<p>Studies at lower degree levels (bachelor's and master's), popular science presentations, textbooks, and policy documents.</p> <p>From 2020: Article based PhD-dissertations and Licentiate dissertations</p>
Publication year	<p>Studies published between 2006 and 2021 are included.</p>	<p>Not published between 2006 and 2021.</p>
Country	<p>Studies conducted in Denmark, Sweden, or Norway, and those processing data from these Scandinavian countries are considered. Comparative</p>	<p>Not empirical data from ECEC in Norway, Sweden or Denmark.</p>

Trends in Scandinavian ECEC Research

	studies between at least one Scandinavian country and OECD countries are included if they meet other inclusion criteria. Reviews containing data from at least one Scandinavian country.	
Publication language	Publications in Swedish, Danish, Norwegian or English are included.	Studies in any other languages other than Swedish, Danish, Norwegian or English.

Supplementary Materials E

The databases included NORA, Idunn, NORART, Libris, DIVA, SwePub, Bibliotek.dk, Forskningsdatabasen.dk, and ERIC (for international articles from 2006 to 2021). For studies from 2018 to 2021, additional searches were performed in Scopus and Web of Science.

Journals specifically searched were Tidsskrift for Nordisk barnehageforskning, European Early Childhood Education Research Journal, Early Child Development and Care, Early Childhood Education Journal, Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood, International Journal of Early Childhood, Barn, Forskning i pædagogers profession og education, Dansk Pædagogisk Tidsskrift, Early Childhood Research Quarterly, Early years: An International Journal of Research and Development, and Forskning om undervisning og lärande.