



STEM EDUCATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD IN TURKEY

Res. Assist. Şebnem Soylu
Middle East Technical University
TURKEY
soylusebnem@gmail.com

Abstract

After a decade of intense focus on developing literacy skills in early childhood programs, today the attention is shifting to the significance of teaching mathematics, technology and science in the early years. The need for emphasizing science, mathematics, technology and engineering subjects in school settings to enhance 21st century skills of individuals, starting with early childhood by using a developmentally appropriate approach is declared by a great number of research. Even though the significance of early introduction to STEM subjects is being discussed recently by many researchers, serious initiative for national regulations, curriculum development, teacher preparation, and setting standards is still lacking for Turkey. This paper aims to provide an initial glimpse of the state of the STEM education in early childhood in the world and the current state of STEM education in early childhood level in Turkey. The paper will conclude with suggestions regarding to integrating STEM in early childhood education, especially for Turkey.

Keywords: STEM education, STEM in early childhood, Turkey.