

The Berlin Agenda for Action for Government Ministers

The World Summit on Physical Education reinforces the importance of Physical Education as a life-long process. It is particularly important for every child as articulated in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. All children have a right to: (1) the highest level of health; (2) free and compulsory primary education for both cognitive and physical development; (3) rest and leisure; play and recreation.

THE BERLIN AGENDA CALLS FOR ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS AND MINISTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORT TO:

- implement policies for Physical Education as a human right for all children;
- recognise that quality Physical Education depends on well-qualified educators and scheduled time within the curriculum, both of which are possible to provide even when other resources like equipment are in short supply;
- invest in initial and in-service professional training and development for educators;
- support research to improve the effectiveness and quality of Physical Education;
- work with international financial institutions to ensure Physical Education is included as part of their of definition of education;
- recognise the distinctive role of Physical Education in health, overall development and safe, supportive communities;
- recognise that failure to provide Physical Education costs more in health care than the investment needed for Physical Education;

Why take these actions? Quality Physical Education:

- is the most effective and inclusive means of providing all children, whatever their ability/disability, sex, age, cultural, race/ethnicity, religious or social background, with the skills, attitudes, values, knowledge and understanding for life long participation in physical activity and sport;
- helps to ensure integrated and rounded development of mind, body and spirit;
- is the only school subject whose primary focus is on the body, physical activity, physical development and health;
- helps children to develop the patterns of and interest in physical activity, which are essential for healthy development and which lay the foundations for adult healthy lifestyles;
- helps children to develop respect for the body - both their own and others';
- develops understanding of the role of physical activity in promoting health.
- contributes to children's confidence and self esteem;
- enhances social development by preparing children to cope with competition, winning and losing; and co-operation and collaboration;
- provides the skills and knowledge for future work in sport, physical activity, recreation and leisure, a growing area of employment.

Berlin, November 5, 1999

