The Discovery of Early Childhood (2nd ed.)

The second edition of Discovery updates, expands and illustrates Helen May's foundation book on the discovery of new and often radical ideas concerning the care and education of young children in institutions established outside of the family home.

The story traverses both Europe, where these ideas were seeded, and New Zealand, where missionaries first transported the new progressive notion of infant schools as an experiment for educating young Maori children apart from their whanau and outside the kainga. This book, which has been popular with education students since it was first published in 1997, is now richly illustrated and introduces readers to key figures of the Enlightenment in the 17th and 18th centuries and to infant schools and kindergartens in the 19th century. For the 20th century the stories traverse the influence of progressive ideals on new kinds of institutions such as nursery schools and Playcentre, and to educators such as Maria Montessori, Margaret McMillan and Susan Isaacs.
Early childhood education is an important step in educating young minds and offering stimulating opportunities for exploring and learning. Those who contributed to the discipline of early childhood education came from occupations and professions outside the academic domain. What they had in common was an understanding of children. The focus in the Waldorf classroom is on sensory exploration and self-discovery rather than formal instruction and merit, helping children develop a sense of compassion and responsibility. The use of electronic media, especially TV, by young children is discouraged in Waldorf schools.

Reggio Emilia Schools – Classroom as the “Third Teacher”. Early childhood education (ECE; also nursery education) is a branch of education theory which relates to the teaching of children (formally and informally) from birth up to the age of eight which is traditionally about third grade. It emerged as a field of study during the Enlightenment, particularly in European countries with high literacy rates. It continued to grow through the nineteenth century as universal primary education became a norm in the Western world. In recent years, early childhood education has reinforced the importance of collecting both cause and effect data, and using it in the daily work with children.

Develop a deeper understanding of how to organize and review data to answer critical questions about your early childhood special education program.