## Contents

EX	ECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
	Context of the Report and Committee Charge, 3	
	New Understandings of Early Childhood	
	Development and Pedagogy, 4	
	Variation Among Children, 5	
	Quality in Education and Care, 6	
	Features of Quality Programs, 7	
	Curriculum and Pedagogy, 9	
	Assessment in Early Childhood Education, 11	
	Recommendations, 12	
	Future Research Needs, 18	
	Conclusion, 20	
1	INTRODUCTION	23
	About This Report, 30	
	Overview of the Report, 35	
2	WHAT DOES THE SCIENCE OF LEARNING	
	CONTRIBUTE TO EARLY CHILDHOOD PEDAGOGY?	37
	Theories of Cognitive Development, 39	
	Social and Emotional Context: The Importance of	
	Relationships, 47	
	Development of the Brain, 53	
	Summary, 58	

xii	CONTE	NTS
3	THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIVIDUAL AND CULTURAL VARIATIONS Variation in Cognitive Skills and Knowledge, 60 Variation in Social and Emotional Development, 85 Variations in Physical and Motor Development, 117 Children with Disabilities, 121 Summary, 126	59
4	PRESCHOOL PROGRAM QUALITY Programs for Economically Disadvantaged Children, 129 Preschool Program Quality and Children's Learning and Development, 137 Findings Across Early Education Approaches, 144 Programs for English-Language Learners, 157 Early Childhood Programs in Other Countries, 160 Children with Identified Disabilities, 164 Summary, 179	128
5	CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY: THE WHAT AND THE HOW OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION Curriculum Goals, 183 Curriculum Content, 186 Pedagogy/Teaching Strategies, 213 Summary, 230	182
6	ASSESSMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION Issues in Standardized Assessment of Young Children, 2: Assessment for Pedagogical and Instructional Planning, Assessment for Selection and Diagnosis, 252 Assessment for Policy Decisions, 257 Summary, 259	35
7	THE PREPARATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS Professional Development, 263 Teacher Education, 270 Summary, 275	261

CONTENTS		
8 PROGRAM AND PRACTICE STANDARDS Program Standards, 278 Standards of Practice, 298	277	
9 FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS Conclusions and Recommendations, 309 Future Research Needs, 318 Conclusion, 322	306	
APPENDIX: SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE The Scientific Methods, 323 Research in Early Childhood Education, 329	323	
REFERENCES		
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES		
INDEX		