

Early Childhood Reference Centre inaugurated in El Omran

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(TAP)- Minister of Women, Family, Children and the Elderly Naziha Laabidi and Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) office in Tunis, Lila Peters, inaugurated, on Friday, the Early Childhood Reference Centre in El Omran in Tunis, marking the effective start of its activities

Carried out with investments of 600 thousand dinars, the centre is composed of a pilot kindergarten which currently accommodates 120 children aged 3 to 6 years, in particular children with special needs.

The centre covers an area of 1,600 square metres and includes classrooms, a training unit for early childhood educators and a research and design unit for teaching guides and repositories. The facility will also offer parenting education sessions for parents.

Asmaa Matoussi Hidri, in charge of monitoring this project and director of social animation, education and leisure at the Ministry of Women, told TAP that the creation of this centre is part of the multisectoral strategy for early childhood development (2017-2025) and within the framework of cooperation with UNICEF. It was carried out with the support of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and the European Union.

The centre aims to promote the quality of pre-school education and educational programmes for children of this age to ensure that they comply with international standards. In addition, it is necessary to develop a model of early childhood education services that can be replicated in the target regions.

For her part, UNICEF Representative in Tunisia, Lila Peters, said that the creation of the centre was the result of a four-year partnership and cooperation between several parties (ministries, civil society, the private sector and UNICEF's technical and financial partners).

For her part, the Minister for Women welcomed the creation of a pilot kindergarten for children from needy families to enable them to benefit from quality educational services at affordable prices, stressing that the Ministry is examining the possibility of extending this experience nationwide.

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