Global Compact for Early Childhood Development

A global network of cities working to improve the lives of their youngest citizens
Early Childhood Development
Brain architecture is built over time in a cumulative bottom-up manner; brain areas that determine social, emotional & learning skills are inextricably connected.

Toxic stress, ill-health and undernutrition disrupt healthy brain development with lifelong impact on learning, behavior, later health and future earnings.

Positive parenting builds resilience and buffers toxic stress, nurturing a child’s emerging social, emotional, and cognitive skills.
Chronic Underinvestment

Early investment brings highest returns

Return on investment

Programs targeted towards the earliest years
Preschool programs
Schooling
Job training

Underinvesting in ECD has a measurable negative impact on the economy

Lifelong Impact

Sensitive periods in brain development

Affecting:
- gene expression
- brain architecture
- learning & later health
- future earnings
- cost to society

Across sectors: what ties it all together?

- health
- nutrition
- stimulation
- toxic stress
  - neglect
  - sexual abuse
  - loss of parent
  - harsh parenting
  - exposure to violence

A child’s developing brain
Connectome: 600 Trillion bytes
Genome: 1.5 Billion bytes
Cities: where children live

In 1800, less than 3% of all people on Earth lived in cities.
Today, it’s over 50%, and by 2050 more than 70% will be in cities.
Cities: where children live

We have reached “peak rural”

Trend in every region on Earth

Source: United Nations, World Urbanization Prospects

UN Population Division and World Urbanization Prospects
Early Childhood in Cities

By 2050: 70% of world’s children will be living in cities

Problem: Poverty, ill-health, poor nutrition, lack of stimulation and “toxic stress” disrupt early brain development

Solution: Some cities are working to strengthen their maternal & child health, nutrition and parenting programs, and to increase the child-friendliness of their social services, justice systems and public spaces

The Global Compact for Early Childhood Development is a platform to support civic leaders in this effort
Member Cities are Committed

• to improve the lives of their very youngest citizens from pregnancy to 3 years, i.e., before preschool

• to integrate early childhood development services across city departments and disciplines

• to test new approaches and measure the impact of evidence-based ECD programs and services

• to share lessons learned among Member Cities

• to reach the most vulnerable children
Family Center, Medellín
Better Start Bradford, UK
Jacksonville Florida Resources for parents

Member Cities have developed their own ECD programs and tools, often independently.

Now they want to:
- learn from each other
- share common tools
- learn from ECD experts
- test new approaches
- raise all boats
Structure

• **Member Cities:** Mayors and their designated representatives (city council and ECD leaders)

• **Leadership Council:** Recognized scientists, experts and leaders in the ECD field

• **Secretariat:** based in New York Academy of Sciences

• **Partner organizations**
Member Cities

December 2016 “Early Adopter Cities” Workshop

- Blackpool, UK
- Boa Vista, Brazil
- Bradford, UK
- Cagayan de Oro, Philippines
- Jacksonville FL, US
- Kansas City MO, US
- Lambeth, UK
- Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Mecklenburg County NC, US
- Medellin, Colombia
- Nottingham, UK
- Seattle WA, US
- Šiauliai, Lithuania
- Southend, UK

Under discussion to join as of February 2017

- 2 cities in the US
- 1 cities in Europe
- 2 cities in Canada
- 6 cities in Africa
Key Value Added: Benchmarking
## Leadership Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
<th>Organization/University</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joan Lombardi</td>
<td>Senior Advisor</td>
<td>Bernard van Leer Foundation</td>
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<td>Catherine E Monk</td>
<td>Co-Director, Sackler Parent-Infant Project</td>
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<td>Liana Ghent</td>
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<td>Tonja Rucker</td>
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<td>Patsy Hampton</td>
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<td>Susan Magsamen</td>
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<td>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt</td>
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<td>Ellen Galinsky</td>
<td>Executive Director, Mind in the Making</td>
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<td>James Cairns</td>
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<td>Kimber Bogard</td>
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<td>Divya Lata</td>
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<td>Evelyn Santiago</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dana Suskind</td>
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<td>Thirty Million Words Initiative</td>
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<td>George Halvorson</td>
<td>Chair and CEO</td>
<td>Institute for InterGroup Understanding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roberta Golinkoff</td>
<td>Professor of Education, Psychology &amp; Linguistics</td>
<td>University of Delaware</td>
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The Academy has a longstanding commitment to ECD

**Beyond the IQ Test**  (2016)
*Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* Special Issue covering a range of topics including the U-STARS~PLUS approach to recognizing high potential in young children.

Policy Brief translating evidence from the *Annals* volume (below) into 5 actions for policy makers and program implementers to deliver better interventions in the first 1,000 days.

**Shaping the Developing Brain: Prenatal through Early Childhood**  (2014)
Academy conference bringing together scientists, researchers and educators to examine cognitive and neural development of infants and young children.

**Every Child’s Potential: Integrating Nutrition and ECD Interventions**  (2014)
Report in *Annals of The New York Academy of Sciences* on how to address scientific and practical challenges of integrating health, cognitive and nutrition components of ECD.

**Play, Attention, and Learning: How Does Play and Timing Shape the Development of Attention and Facilitate Classroom Learning?**  (2013)

**Third Annual Aspen Brain Forum: Cognitive Neuroscience of Learning**  (2011)
Seminial conference on cutting-edge developments in cognitive neuroscience leading to improvements in teaching methods, and emotional, sociological and environmental factors.

...and to STEM education

**Global STEM Alliance**
A partnership of governments, corporations, philanthropist, schools, NGOs and top academic institutions around the world to enhance on-the-ground STEM education and global mentoring – for example by connecting Nobel laureates and Blavatnik Awardees with STEM students

**Strengthening ECD = “nurturing the roots of STEM”**
Strategy

**THEORY OF CHANGE:**
By linking mayors, city program leaders and ECD experts we will promote an exchange of evidence-based ideas and solutions, empowering urban communities to transform their own ECD efforts, thereby fostering a global cultural shift toward more child-friendly cities.

**GOAL:**
To build a global collaborative network of cities committed to harnessing evidence, strengthening adaptive learning capacities through operational research, and sharing what works, so that cities can take the lead in helping all children reach their full potential.

*This effort is closely linked to the ECD Task Group of the Summit for Science and Technology Enablement for the Sustainable Development Goals, presented by the Academy at the urging of the UN on November 29 2016.*
Our Aspirations

By 2020: High-impact network of over 100 cities extending services to >25 million children

By 2020: Evidence-based tools and guidance for cities in low- middle- and high-income countries

By 2020: Innovative new approaches to “under-3 ECD” – tested and replicable in other cities
Partner with Us

Help us

• grow the city network
• promote child-friendly cities
• test new ECD innovations
• measure outcomes for kids
• build a global movement!

The Global Compact for ECD

• fills a critical need and gap
• leverages existing city resources
• is scalable and ultimately sustainable
First “Early Adopter Cities” Workshop
New York, November 30 – December 1, 2016

Agenda

• How to address:
  – ECD in the womb
  – ECD in the home
  – ECD outside the home

• Cross-cutting issues

• Brainstorming solutions

• Measuring impact

• Launch of Global Compact for ECD!
1st Early Adopter Cities Workshop, 2016: Mayors, city counselors and ECD program directors from 13 cities in Asia, Europe, North and South America, along with over 25 internationally recognized ECD experts, convened at New York Academy of Sciences
Mayor Oscar Moreno
(1) **Sharing solutions to cross-cutting issues**

- Political will and leadership
- Sustainable financing
- ECD workforce capacity
- Parent & community engagement
- Hard-to-reach & special needs children
Workshop Outcomes

(2) Need for common tools and resources

• Standards: Guidance on what outcomes to measure

• Curricula: for nurses, social workers, educators, police

• Operational research guidelines (*competitive grants*)

• Benchmarking:  
  - Member City ECD programs database  
  - *Short-term exchanges among cities*

• Child-Friendly City Checklist: key process considerations
Workshop Outcomes

(3) Need to “bundle” services across disciplines

- Prenatal
- Nutrition
- Health
- Parenting
- Home visits
- Family centers
- Social services
- Justice system
- Public spaces
- Built environment
How not to approach children’s needs

The blind men and the elephant
Global Compact for Early Childhood Development

Thank you!