

What you should know about early child development
Compiled by the Early Child Development Knowledge Network

<p>1. Addressing early child development means creating the conditions for children prenatal to 8 years to thrive <i>equally</i> in their physical, social/emotional, and language/cognitive development.</p>	<p>2. Safe, cohesive, child-centred neighbourhoods, communities, and villages matter for early child development.</p>
<p>3. Success in the area of early child development requires a partnership, not only among international, national, and local agencies but, also, with the world's families.</p>	<p>4. Early child development is a cornerstone of human development and should be central to how we judge the successfulness of societies. Measuring the state of early child development with a comparable approach throughout the world will provide a way for societies to judge their success.</p>
<p>5. Children require stimulating, supportive and nurturing care when their parents are not available. High quality childcare and early childhood education can improve children's chances for success in later life.</p>	<p>6. In order to improve the state of early child development, global communities need to continuously improve the conditions for families to nurture their children by addressing economic security, flexible work, information and support, health and quality childcare needs.</p>
<p>7. Among all the social determinants of health, early child development is the easiest for societies' economic leaders to understand because improved early child development not only means better health, but a more productive labour force, reduced criminal justice costs, and reductions in other strains on the social safety net.</p>	<p>8. Brain and biological development during the first years of life depends on the quality of stimulation in the infant's family and social environment. Early child development, in turn is a life long determinant of health, well-being, and learning skills. Taken together, these facts make early child development a social determinant of health.</p>