



UNICEF/Peter/White/Sliver

4 CORNERSTONES

To secure a strong foundation for young children

1. Start at the beginning!

- Integrate, coordinate, and improve services that are responsive to the needs and desires of – and accessible to -- all young children and their families
- Promote more positive caregiver/child interaction, stimulating environments, good health and nutrition, and better child care
- Provide universal access to family support programmes that address holistic child development, with special attention to the most vulnerable young children and their families



UNESCO/Carol Masters

2. Provide new opportunities for discovery and learning!

- Ensure access to at least two years of quality early childhood services in a range of informal, non-formal, or formal settings, both community and home-based
- Focus on the development of children's sense of self, their interactions with peers and adults, their confidence as learners, their language competence, and their critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Provide information and support to parents and caregivers, including fathers, through wide-ranging family support activities
- Prioritise the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children



Agar Khan Foundation/Miranda Goodenough

3. Make schools ready for children!

- Ensure a welcoming, appreciative, and inclusive school environment which facilitates the transition from the family or pre-school environment and where every child feels safe and secure
- Train and appoint capable teachers to lower primary grades who understand the development needs and learning styles of young children
- Ensure smaller class sizes and a manageable teacher-child ratio in the early years of primary school

4. Address the development of policies on early childhood!

- Develop, implement, and evaluate policies and action plans in the context of a national vision and strategies for young children, expanded investment in their development, and stronger intersectoral coordination
- Guarantee adequate resources by ensuring that early childhood is integral to national development policies and macroeconomic planning and budgeting
- Address early childhood, across sectors, in all national and sub-national policies and plans
- Invest now in Early Childhood policies and programmes which will bring immediate and long term-returns to individuals, families, communities, and nations



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