From Neurons to Neighborhoods 10 Years Later: Promising Advances and Persistent Challenges

Where do We Go From Here: Mobilizing Science to Promote Innovation

Lessons Learned from a Global Perspective

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Overview

- World community converging on the importance of ECD.

- What are the obstacles?

- So, what’s next? An agenda for the next 10 years
  - Foster global understanding and awareness of ECD
  - Expand access to and ensure the quality of ECD programs
  - Assess the outcome of early childhood
Key Messages from All Venues

• Start at the beginning

• Get ready for success

• Include early childhood in all national policies across sectors
What are the Obstacles?

• Investment is immediate. Payoff is only 20+ from today

• Children’s development involve all levels and sectors of society

• Infrastructure must be built from the “bottom up”
Built Infrastructure from “Bottom Up”

Aim to strengthen basic unit of society – the family

Parent associations
Lobby local authorities to improve basic infrastructure-water, transport,

Neighborhood cluster

City-wide system

NGOs /local networks
Depend on city support system to procure, distribute food, train caretaker and conduct public awareness campaigns
An Agenda for the Next 10 years

• Foster global understanding and awareness
  – communicate the importance of healthy brain development
  – Promote a trans-disciplinary science of human development

• Expand access to ECD programs and ensure the quality of these programs
  – Strengthen the building blocks
  – Engage the private sector

• Assess the outcome of early childhood
  – Measure the outcome, systematically and comparatively
  – Develop a database of children’s outcome with and without ECD programs