



## 2° Cumbre / Simposio Desarrollo Infantil Temprano

INTERACCIONES QUE TRANSFORMAN

### 2nd Early Childhood Development Summit/Symposium “Transforming Interactions”

## Early Childhood

The period between gestation and the five-year-old mark is critical in determining a person's future. It is during this age that 90% of brain development takes place and when more than a million new neural pathways connect together every single second, laying the foundation upon which abilities and knowledge are built. Therefore, some studies have shown that greater socio-economic benefits derive from early-childhood intervention than such deriving from any other stage in life. A yield of roughly 6 to 17 dollars is gained for each dollar invested.

When society invests in children and their families, it is also investing in the next generation of human capital, thus triggering a multiplying effect of socio-economic benefits for people and their communities: improved health, greater educational accomplishments, productivity increases, better labor market results, and a reduction in the partaking of criminal activity. Investing in early childhood development (ECD) not only positively impacts children, but also has a significant impact on the growth trajectory and competitiveness of a nation.

## The Opportunity

Many factors come into play when we talk about ECD: good nutritional and healthy habits during pregnancy; stimulation; play and affectionate care to activate neural pathways; access to quality early childhood education; and environments that favor all-around development, learning, and the promotion of language and socio-emotional cognitive functions in children. Furthermore, in order for nervous system development and growth to take place, security and protection are necessary to cushion toxic stress and allow the absorption of nutrients for growth.

43% of children under five years of age are at risk of not achieving their maximum potential worldwide. In Latin America, the same is true for 18% of children during the same age (Lancet, 2016)<sup>2</sup>. Taking into account the importance of ECD investment and its respective challenges, new ways of working towards the best interests of public, private, social, and academic joint efforts are of utmost importance in order to assure maximum impact and to roll out scalable, repeatable, and innovative projects.

Each of us has a key role to play: governments could provide quality services at scale with a coordinated approach and companies could promote innovating ideas from civil society and support academic research.

Companies also can, and should, foster ECD within their organizations. The best investment they could possibly make is focused on their own employees: by raising awareness concerning the importance of ECD, easing access to daycare centers, implementing flexible schedules for parents, and/or promoting breastfeeding. These policies go beyond benefiting collaborators: they also represent an investment in human capital, which impacts society as a whole.

Although in recent years ECD has been the subject of various policies that seek to guarantee a comprehensive approach from different sectors, quality is a challenge and public funding is still scarce. The private sector represents an opportunity for driving positive change in favor of early-childhood development.





## 2° Cumbre / Simposio Desarrollo Infantil Temprano

INTERACCIONES QUE TRANSFORMAN

### Our Proposal

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that children realize their full potential. Early and adequate investments are of utmost importance for the wellbeing of people and for socio-economic sustainability nationwide. Coordination among governments, civil society, private sector, and academia is needed for a greater collective impact on the comprehensive development of children.

The 2nd Early Childhood Development Summit/Symposium "Transforming Interactions" serves as a meeting point to promote ECD in Latin America. This forum will provide the opportunity to interact with different sectors and the search for collaboration opportunities to transform children's lives from the very beginning.

### Objectives

- Raising awareness of the socio-economic benefits of ECD investment.
- Promoting the private sector's role in supporting the development of policies, programs, and investments within the public and corporate spheres.
- Reinforcing the importance of intersectoral collaboration.
- Creating opportunities for collaboration in order to foster collective action.

### Participants

We will bring together more than 150 professionals from the private sector and representatives from the public sector and non-governmental organizations.

### When and Where?

November 30, 2017

The St. Regis Mexico City, located at Paseo de la Reforma 439, Cuauhtémoc, 06500, Mexico City

<sup>1</sup>Yong Kim, J. (2017). The best investment societies can make, *Early Childhood Matters – Advances in Early Childhood Development*, (126), 15-18. Recuperado Julio, 2017, de [https://bernardvanleer.org/app/uploads/2017/06/ECM17\\_3\\_Investment\\_Kim.pdf](https://bernardvanleer.org/app/uploads/2017/06/ECM17_3_Investment_Kim.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>Black, Maureen M et al (2016) *Early childhood development coming of age: science through the life course*. The Lancet, Volume 389, Issue 10064, 77 – 90. Recuperado de [http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(16\)31389-7.pdf](http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(16)31389-7.pdf)

