EARLY LEARNING
COMMUNITY RADIO
LIBRARY
The Early Learning Community Radio Library is a global and collaborative network of free audio resources and tools to share with parents and children, as well as caregivers and extended families in the most vulnerable communities, who do not have access to Internet or a screen.
The global crisis caused by COVID-19 has generated a drastic social change that seriously impacts the economy, education, public health systems, and even the way in which families and children interact socially. The consequences of this crisis highlight the inequity, the social weaknesses of each country and the lack of a comprehensive and multidimensional system around the protection, care, education and rights of children.

These consequences not only exacerbate all the problems that we already know exist regarding child development, but they also expose families to greater challenges, since many do not have the necessary tools to provide support to their children at home. Furthermore, while many families are facing difficulty in maintaining an adequate food intake they are also experiencing high levels of toxic stress given the current situation and economic hardship. Unfortunately, this also leads to a rise in child abuse, neglect and intra-family violence.

We are yet to see all the consequences that this crisis will have on the development and learning of young girls and boys but we already know where it will have more impacts.
Impact on children & parents following the pandemic

Social isolation and quarantining practices exert a substantial negative impact on child anxiety, PTSD, and fear symptoms.

Parents experience high stress, anxiety, and financial burden during pandemics.

In most countries, 2 out of 3 children are subject to violent discipline by their caregivers.
These risks are even greater in vulnerable communities where parents have less information and tools to deal with this situation and suffer from a lack of basic needs and access to the Internet.

Higher levels of depression and feeling of isolation, for example, have been reported among the almost 31 million children who have been forcibly displaced due to violence or conflict.
Half of the world is still unconnected

Two thirds of the world’s school-age children do not have internet connection at home and 826 million students do not even have a computer.

Lack of connectivity doesn’t just limit the ability to connect online. It isolates children and parents from the world and from education.

With children currently not able to attend nursery schools or classrooms, the importance of learning at home is amplified and the task of supporting children’s learning has fallen on parents at a much larger rate. This is a significant burden, particularly for those with limited schooling themselves.

It is in this context and in these medium and long-term solutions where we seek to contribute with The Early Learning Community Radio Library, a worldwide and collaborative network of free audio resources and materials to share with children, families, caregivers, and teachers in the world’s most vulnerable communities, through local radio stations.
The power of community radio

Advances in technology have given people more ways to access an increasing amount of information. However, radio still plays a vital role in today’s world. Radio is more than just announcers, news and songs. Radio is about companionship and the emotional connection with the listener.

What is community radio? Community radio is a type of radio service that offers a model of radio broadcasting beyond commercial and public service. Community radio broadcasting serves geographic communities and communities’ interest and are operated, owned, and driven by the communities they serve. In many parts of the world today, community radio acts as a vehicle for the community and voluntary sector, civil society, agencies, NGOs and citizens to work in partnership to promote community development. By the core aims and objectives of this model of broadcasting, community radio stations often serve their listeners by offering a variety of content that is not necessarily provided by the larger commercial radio stations.
Our Mission

Raise awareness about the effects that pandemics like Covid 19 have in the short, medium and long term in children and families

Emotionally support the importance of the new role of parents as educators

Empower and offer practical tools - Physical distancing cannot be turned into emotional distancing.

Create spaces where educational agents share practices for parents to replicate them at home - in this way the radio serves as a bridge between the teacher and the families

Support parental improvement and well-being by promoting positive interactions with their children and contributing to the reduction of stress and anxiety typical of confinement

Help create a nurturing family environment and experiences rich in opportunities for children to continue learning through language, play, nutrition, and parent-child interaction, as well as protective care, values, and positive attitudes

Offer ideas and activities to do at home that includes improving cognitive skills and managing emotions

Raise awareness with information about the prevention and effect of violence and child abuse as well as the toxic consequences that affect both their brain and behavior.

Cultivate education at home. Despite the pandemic, learning does not stop but is transformed, and children have the right to continue their learning process.

Raise awareness about play as a learning and interaction tool at home that strengthens the bond between adults and children

Cultivate socio-affective skills between adults and children as a protective factor in the midst of the crisis, in a sustainable way with the aim of improving public health, early education and equity, as well as mental health at home.

Encourage care for the development of children during this crisis, preventing higher rates of inequality once the countries' routines return to normal.

Development of communication skills
Who is this for?

We believe in educating and raising children together. That is why these resources and tools are mainly intended for parents and caregivers of infants & toddlers 0 to 6, including young children with disabilities or other special needs as well as extended family, neighbors, educators and the entire community.

Although our priority is to reach the most vulnerable communities, we believe that these resources, in audio format, can also build confidence, develop speaking and listening skills, improve literacy and promote quality family time for communities all around the world.
Curriculum Framework
Principles

The family is at the core of a young child’s learning and development

Infant/toddler learning and development is grounded in relationships

Emotions drive early learning and development

Responsiveness to children’s self-initiated exploration fosters learning

Individualized teaching and care benefits all children

Responsiveness to culture and language supports children’s learning

Intentional teaching and care enriches children’s learning experiences

Time for reflection and planning enhances teaching and care
The Early Learning Radio Library seeks to inform and support parents, families and teachers in socio-emotional education and early learning.

This initiative also aims to be a source of ideas and support for entertainment, play and positive experiences at home, facilitating communication.
Resources for Parents and Caregivers

Resources that inform on how to mitigate toxic stress and manage anxiety and emotions, as well as the importance of play, nutrition and language

Resources that encourage play, using objects found at home

Resources that help create positive experiences at home

Resources that inform on prevention and domestic violence

Stories that show new social relationships in light of the pandemic

Programs that demonstrate that children’s rights should be guaranteed during the pandemic
Resources for children

Lullabies and Children's songs

Children's stories narrated

Segments of radio programs for children

Early learning activities

Relaxation and mindfulness exercises

Learning about the brain
March-July 2021

First Phase:
Create a curriculum framework
Gather science based third-party tools and resources

Distribute them through local community radio stations in the most vulnerable communities in the world, including indigenous communities, which today are very affected by the pandemic in order to preserve their cultural heritage and identity

The languages we will start with are English and Spanish.

We will coordinate and deliver all audio content to local radio stations, and if possible, provide printed materials which broadcasters can read out loud to their audiences and even adapt the texts to local dialects

Second Phase: Evaluation assessments of First Phase and expand content in different languages and territories. We are also studying the possibility of seeking support by children-friendly celebrities in each country who could narrate, sing and send messages to children and families.
The curriculum framework and all the audio resources will be validated by the scientific and educational community worldwide and by this international Advisory Board:

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