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Project
Understanding Systems Thinking from an ECD Perspective - A Narrative Review



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Navigating the Complexities of Early Childhood Development

Systems Thinking Approaches for Equity and Sustainability

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Background

Navigating the Complexity of Early Childhood Development: Collaborative Puzzle-Piece Approach



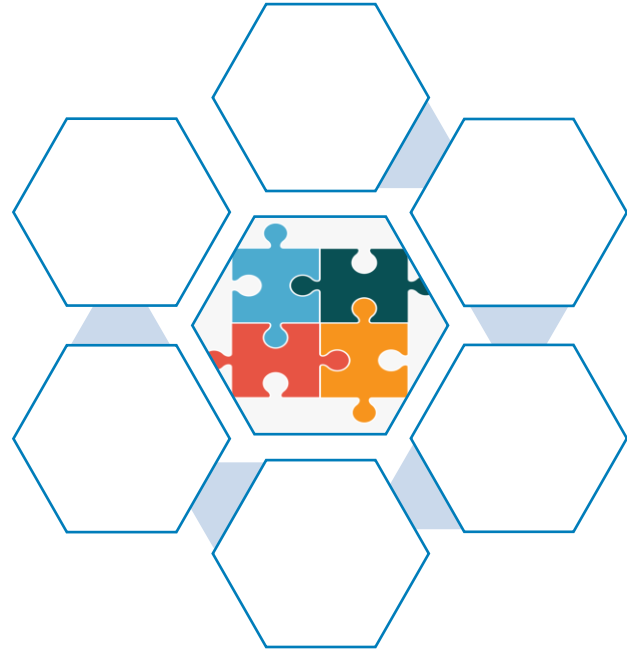
- Early Childhood Development (ECD) is a complex system with multiple components, levels, and stakeholders.
- Long-standing challenges remain unaddressed.
- Building equitable and sustainable ECD systems requires assembling the puzzle pieces.
- There is a need for a new approach.



Solution

Systems Thinking to Solve Complex Puzzle of ECD

- Systems thinking can strengthen ECD's impact and sustainability, but evidence is scarce.
- Systems thinking is a suite of approaches to grappling with complex problems.
- Promoting the use of systems thinking in ECD can enhance its impact and sustainability.
- However, systems thinking remains an underdeveloped area in ECD.





Product

What does the Narrative Review include?



- The review features 5 diverse ECD case profiles, showcasing the versatility of systems thinking.
- It is a practical resource for ECD professionals and policymakers interested in this approach and contributes to its growing interest and application in ECD.


Example



Initiative Name	Country	Type of Initiative	Levels	Components focused on	System Approach	How it Promotes Systems Thinking	Specific Implementation
Chile Creche Contigo	Chile	National program to expand access to ECD services	National, Municipal, Family, Child	Health, Education, Social Protection, Early Learning, Family Support	Uses a multi-sectoral approach to ECD, involving health, education, and social protection systems.	Focuses on intersectoral coordination and collaboration, and emphasizes the importance of addressing social determinants of ECD.	Provides training for ECD professionals, promotes community engagement, and provides financial incentives to ECD centres.



Key Findings and Implications

-  Rather than a preconceived solution: Lead with a problem
-  Transition from a Project or Program: Understand the Big Picture
-  Put Together a Winning Coalition: Collaborate with Stakeholders
-  Invest in workforce development: Build Capacity and Expertise
-  Focus on equity and inclusion: Prioritize All Children
-  Importance of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning



Key Takeaways & Next Steps



Key takeaways:

- Systems thinking plays a critical role in promoting equity and sustainability in ECD programs.
- Ongoing efforts are needed to document and evaluate the impact of systems thinking initiatives.

Scope and Limitations of the Review

- Scope and methods are limited for comparative analysis.
- Does not provide a comprehensive evaluation of the impact on multiple levels of the ECD system.
- Mainly focuses on successful examples of systems thinking approaches.
- Further research is needed to better understand challenges and limitations of employing a systems approach in ECD programs.

Next Steps for Research



Continue to Generate Evidence on What Works



Develop Tools and Frameworks



Explore Emerging Technologies



Enhance Collaboration and Co-design

Thank You!



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