



Explanatory Metaphor

Circle of Responsibility

A value to cue thinking about society's collective responsibility to support healthy development and learning in early childhood.



The story you're telling:

To help children build healthy brains and bodies from birth onward, we need to surround them with appropriate support and care. Public agencies, preschools, medical professionals, family members and everyday citizens are all part of this circle of responsibility.



Strategically redirects thinking away from patterns such as:

- Expand the model of government responsibility beyond immunisation and health.
- Expand attention to actors beyond mothers and families.
- Counter the tendency to focus on older children and shift attention to the very young.
- Counter the belief that development is automatic if basic needs are met.



Concepts and ideas included in this frame element:

- Early childhood development is a social project that requires collective effort.
- Young children need to be surrounded by a system of supports, resources and programmes that can help them build strong brains and bodies.
- We all have a role in creating a circle of supportive care to ensure that young children have opportunities to develop well.
- The circle of responsibility is big: It includes public agencies, third-sector organisations and quality early learning programmes, as well as community and family members.