

Early Childhood Matters 2018: Sharing the lessons, inspiring action

Over the years we have heard numerous stories about the importance of Early Childhood Matters to people in the field of child development and beyond. To celebrate this 20th anniversary issue, we invite our readers to share the articles in this issue of the journal with colleagues and friends, particularly those working directly with young children and families. Together with the authors, they are part of a global movement that is shining a spotlight on the important period of early development.

We hope the questions below can stimulate discussion – in training programmes and informal workshops, in staff meetings and in university classes.

Introducing the journal

Early Childhood Matters is the annual journal of the Bernard van Leer Foundation, which seeks to highlight promising developments and new opportunities in the field of early childhood development emerging around the world. The 2018 issue includes four sections with contributions from prominent leaders who are making a difference for young children, examples of scaling services, some of the latest innovations and short takes on current issues.

To get started:

- Share a copy of the journal or the table of contents and ask participants to select a few articles of interest.
- Talk about why people selected certain articles to read: what was of particular interest and why?
- Provide ample time for reading and reflection.

Discussing the articles, sharing the lessons

- Talk about the main point of the article selected. What are the key messages? What more do you want to know?
- What ideas are in the article that might have implications for work in other communities or countries?

Following up, encouraging action

- If the article represented leadership or scaling a model or approach, can you share the lessons with other decision makers?
- If the article highlighted an innovation, what other innovations come to mind when reading these examples?
- Of the current issues, are you seeing similar challenges in your community? What can you do to take action to improve the conditions facing children and families?

Please share other experiences or ideas on how to put Early Childhood Matters into action on behalf of young children and families.