

# **Early literacy programmes in Italy Nati per Leggere (NpL)**



**Nati per  
Leggere**

**Associazione Culturale Pediatri  
Associazione Italiana Biblioteche  
Centro per la Salute del Bambino ONLUS**

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# Literacy programmes in Italy

- No programmes after '50 and '60s (to fight adult illiteracy) with the exception of specific programmes for migrants
- National Center for Books and Reading established in 2005. Since 2013 a 2 million euro programme for promoting reading in children (0-5; 6-11; 11-18 yrs); the 0-5 programme is based on Nati per Leggere

# The NpL alliance



- ✓ **NpL, started** in 1999, is promoted by the professional organizations of librarians and paediatricians: **Associazione Culturale Pediatri (ACP)**, **Associazione Italiana Biblioteche (AIB)** and is coordinated by the **Centro per la Salute del Bambino (CSB)**, a non profit organization for child health and development



Centro per la Salute del Bambino

- ✓ The **Associazione Culturale Pediatri** has 2000 members among Italian paediatricians



- ✓ The **Associazione Italiana Biblioteche** links more than 4000 librarians across the whole country



# NpL

- ✓ A national multidisciplinary board
- ✓ Over 500 local projects in all Italian regions
- ✓ Collaboration with the Ministry of Culture
- ✓ National Prize for best child books and innovative practices in the promotion of early reading in collaboration with the International Book Fair in Turin
- ✓ An agreement with publishers allows big discount for books (3 euro each) included in a special catalogue (25 titles) for NpL projects



Nati per Leggere  
Nati per La Musica

# The key concepts

**Early intervention**

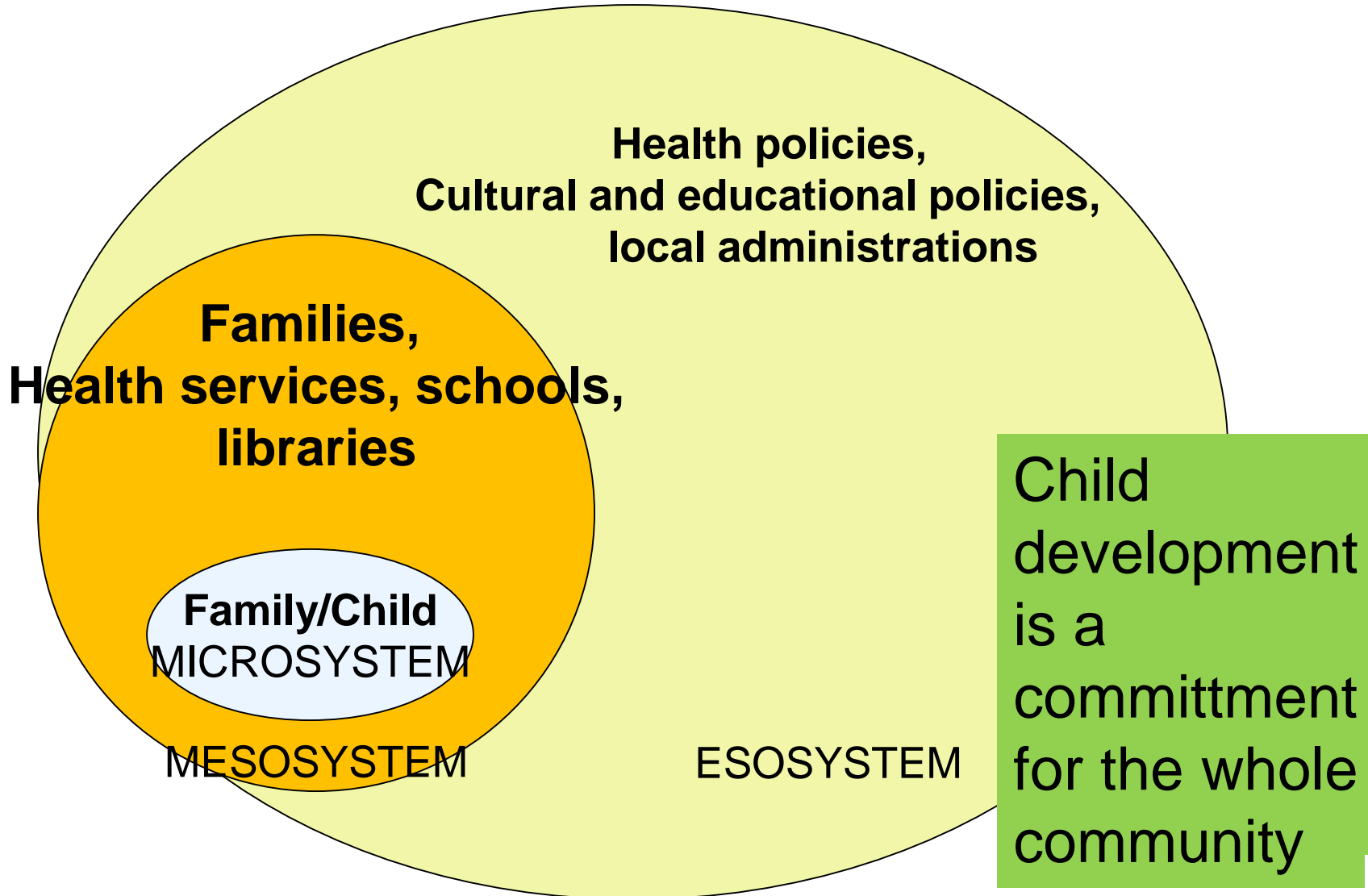
**The central role of the family**

**Universal coverage**



# Based on an ecologic view of child development

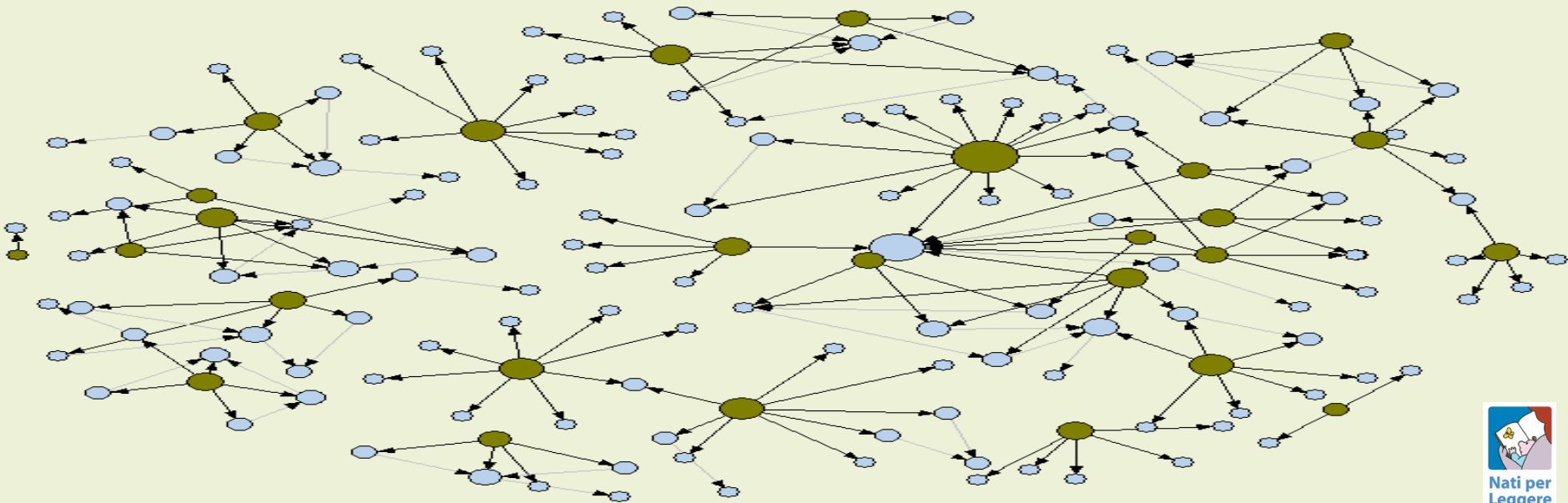
Human development= results of interactions between systems and persons



# NpL strategy

Establish local operational networks to ensure a systemic activity of dissemination of reading to children in all family, educational and health contexts

Health services can ensure universal coverage of the message



# The NpL program

Nati per Leggere is a program which promotes early literacy since the first months of life by providing parents with advice and tools for reading aloud to their children

The professionals involved are:

- ✓ primary care paediatricians and other health professionals,
- ✓ librarians,
- ✓ educators
- ✓ volunteer readers



100% of Italian children have access to primary care paediatricians and this is crucial to ensure universality in the project



# The components of NpL

At each health supervision visit starting at 6 months pediatricians **encourage parents** to read aloud, offer anticipatory guidance and give a new **developmentally-appropriate book**



# Role of training

- ✓ The **training of the promoters** is one of the most important tasks of the national committee.
- ✓ **Training** is essential to create a common understanding among the different professional and cultural backgrounds of librarians, social and health professionals, educators and other people of the local community who are involved in setting up and coordinating the project.
- ✓ Our NpL introductory course requires participation of all professional involved. In this **multidisciplinarity** has proven to be an added value.

# How volunteer readers work

- ✓ Read to children in health services, libraries and other public places
- ✓ Act as a model for parents showing that children like books
- ✓ Support parents with advice, materials and information on where and how to find books and libraries
- ✓ Provide logistical support to organize activities
- ✓ Help to create enabling environments for reading



# Information materials for parents



**Come leggere i libri con i vostri bambini**

- scegliete un luogo confortevole dove sedervi e tenete il bambino in braccio
- recitate o cantate le filastrocche del suo libro preferito
- cercate di eliminare le altre fonti di distrazione - televisione, radio, stereo, telefono
- tenete in mano il libro in modo che il vostro bambino possa vedere le pagine chiaramente
- fategli indicare le figure
- parlate delle figure e ripetete le parole di uso comune
- leggete con partecipazione, create le voci dei personaggi e usate la mimica per raccontare la storia
- variate il ritmo di lettura - più lento o più veloce
- fategli domande cosa pensi che succederà adesso?
- lasciate che il bambino faccia le domande e cogliete l'occasione per parlare
- fate raccontare la storia dal vostro bambino
- lasciate scegliere i libri da leggere al vostro bambino
- rileggetegli i suoi libri preferiti anche se lo chiede spesso

**Quali libri scegliere**

- chiedete alla biblioteca le bibliografie dei libri più belli e "collaudati"
- lasciate nella sua cameretta o nella vostra libreria un ripiano, raggiungibile dal bambino, per i suoi libri, nel tempo si formerà la sua biblioteca personale
- ogni tanto, se possibile una volta al mese, andate in biblioteca o il libreria: vi stupirete delle sue scelte!

**E ricordate**

- se voi amate la lettura il bambino lo sentirà e l'amerà anche lui
- mettetevi a disposizione del vostro bambino quanti più libri possibile
- prendete l'abitudine di frequentare con il vostro bambino la biblioteca e la libreria
- leggete con il vostro bambino lo aiuta a crescere come persona



Con il patrocinio del  
Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali

Associazione Italiana Biblioteche  
Associazione Culturale Pediatri  
Centro per la Salute del Bambino

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Sostiene il progetto con € 5 per mille  
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FB 125.000 fans



# Where

All places attended by parents

Prenatal classes  
Maternity hospitals  
Day care and kindergartens  
Libraries  
Child health services  
Associations  
But also markets, pharmacies etc.



# Activities

- Project promotion through leaflets, information materials, bibliographies
- Information meeting with parents and librarians, pediatricians, experts of literacy
- Reading laboratories with parents
- Training courses for reading volunteers
- Readings in libraries, health services and other places

# The librarian

- Sets welcoming and comfortable environments for babies, children and parents
- Informs parents and others on reading's benefits
- Selects right books for every age, high quality products and propose bibliographies on specific items (routine, emotions, bedtime etc)
- Organizes reading's sessions
- Organizes training courses



# The educators

- Can realize a space dedicated to books
- can read as a routine
- can give information to parents and show how to do it
- can visit with children the public library
- can realize a small library in the school
- can offer the book for borrowing at home

# The importance of child health professionals

Paediatricians and other child health professionals have a strategic role because:

- Has early contacts, with ALL families
- Visits frequently young children
- Ensures continuity over time
- Is influential on parents
- Provides age-appropriate anticipatory guidance

# Start with the book, observe the interactions and help the parents

“Look how Luca/Maria is biting the book. Young infants like to do this.”

“They like to look at pictures”

“Would you like to look at this book?”



# Spaces: a book-friendly waiting room

Reading and books appear as an important aspect in the clinic

Information are clear and relevant



# Implementation steps of a local program

1. Identify working group and roles
2. Analyze local situation
3. Define objectives
4. Plan phases, timing and costs
5. Create the network, and establish intersector agreements
6. Train professionals
7. Define a communication strategy
8. Fundraising
9. Implement activities and monitor results
10. Establish and maintain a volunteers group

# Collaborations

- Nati per la musica within an early interventions/parenting approach
- Radio Magica the first web radio for children and parents: 3 hrs per day, stories, music information, with specific programmes for disabilities (hearing and communication impairments)
- International: promoting NpL in Cataluna, Switzerland, Croatia and many others
- Forthcoming joint programme with Save the Children: “Punti Luce” for mothers and children in disadvantaged areas

# Challenges and prospects

- Funding need for some public funding versus independence from government (national and local) and regional
- Reach out for those most in need: emphasis on health services, (“Punto lettura” - Reading point) in disadvantaged areas
- Keep motivation high among volunteers and professionals



## Uso delle risorse

Amare la lettura attraverso un gesto d'amore: un adulto che legge una storia. Ogni bambino ha diritto ad essere protetto non solo dalla malattia e dalla violenza ma anche dalla mancanza di adeguate occasioni di sviluppo affettivo e cognitivo. Questo è il cuore di Nati per Leggere. Dal 1999, il progetto ha l'obiettivo di promuovere la lettura ad alta voce ai bambini di età compresa tra i 6 mesi e i 6 anni.

Recenti ricerche scientifiche dimostrano come il leggere ad alta voce, con una certa continuità, ai bambini in età prescolare abbia una positiva influenza sia dal punto di vista relazionale (è una opportunità di relazione tra bambino e genitori), che cognitivo (si sviluppa meglio e più precocemente).

## News

- **05/11/09**  
Per la Regione Abruzzo
- **13/07/09**  
Edizioni speciali
- **09/06/09**  
Video



### Genitori

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### Biblioteche

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jumps over dog.  
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### Scuole

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jumps over dog.  
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