Idea 8
EVERYTHING NEARBY

When establishing new service facilities such as childcare or health clinics, thinking about proximity is important – and favouring denser but smaller service provision is ultimately better for young children and caregivers to access them.

In already urbanised areas where building new facilities may be complex, one possibility is to use existing private spaces for the municipality to provide a service. In this way, municipalities can rapidly increase density and coverage of children’s service provision.

This notion of proximity is especially relevant to reducing travel time and stress for parents from poorly equipped (often informal) neighbourhoods, as well as in new developments where space can be reserved at the outset.

At a glance...

<table>
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<th>COST</th>
<th>MAINTENANCE</th>
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GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT
- Social Services
- Education
- Health
- Parks
- Planning
- Transport

MINIMUM SCALE
Neighbourhood

EXISTING IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL
Tested and implemented
OUTCOME AREAS

- Reduced cost and average time to reach healthcare, childcare, preschool, green space and a source of healthy food
- Reduced caregiver stress and isolation
- Increased instances of caregivers who walk or bike with young children
- Improved access to early childhood services

REAL WORLD EXAMPLES

- In Maranhão, Brazil, 17 cities are using private homes as meeting points for pregnant women and health workers. Locations are chosen to be close enough for the parents-to-be to arrive on foot. This results in fewer missed prenatal visits and more time spent helping mothers and fathers think through what steps they can take – before and after the birth – to help children thrive.

- For decades, the Colombian government has run home-based childcare programmes set up in local homes, but financed and regulated by the government. This strategy has increased the proximity of childcare to where parents live even in high-density neighbourhoods.

- In Antwerp, Belgium, the Kleuters in de voortuin project reclaims small areas to create playable nature spaces everywhere, so that children can access nature easily rather than having to travel to large playgrounds further away.

- In Tucumán, Argentina, the project Filling urban voids has introduced parenting-friendly pop-up urban furniture in 1200 small abandoned spaces in the city. These spaces are self-managed by local communities and increase the proximity of family-friendly places throughout the city.

- The Kidogo project in Kibera, one the largest informal settlements in Nairobi, Kenya, builds capacity for mothers to provide higher-quality, sustainable childcare micro-businesses, based in their homes.

RELATED IDEAS

6 Opening public facilities out of hours
2 Subsidised public transport
1 Priority access to services for young families
2 Neighbourhood directories for early childhood services
4 Parent coaching bundled with health services