



# Integrating Nurturing Care and ECD into primary health care in Italy: process, challenges and opportunities

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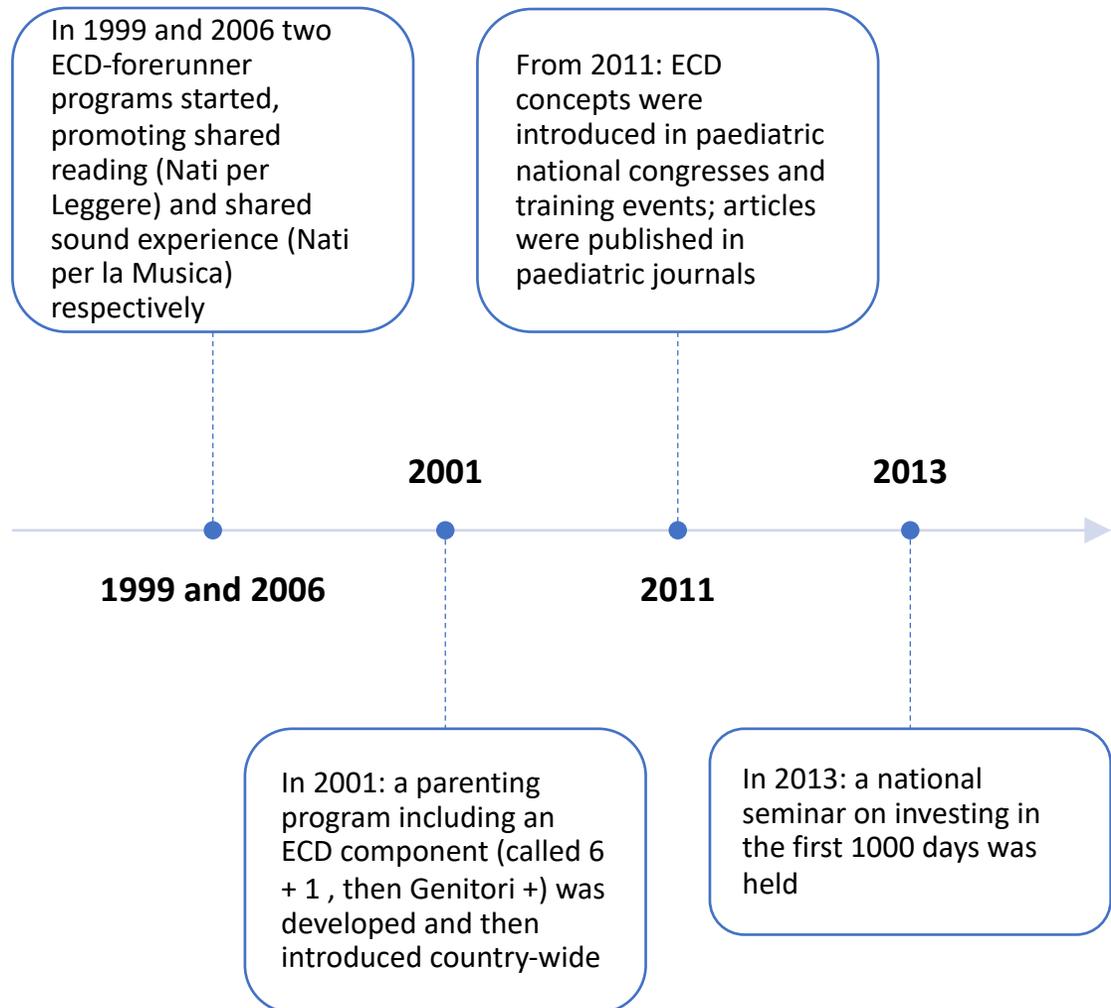
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Why Health Systems, and particularly primary care services, are so important for mainstreaming ECD concepts in all services for children and their caregivers and ECD practices in the home environment

- HS is a universal entry point for all children and families
- Health professionals represent an authoritative voice vis-à-vis parents
- Primary care health services follow children from before birth to adolescence
- In Italy, primary care paediatricians (almost 90% coverage) deliver well child visits (7 or 8) in the first 3 years, which represent an ideal opportunity to deliver ECD messages to caregivers

# Brief history of when and how ECD concepts were introduced in Italy



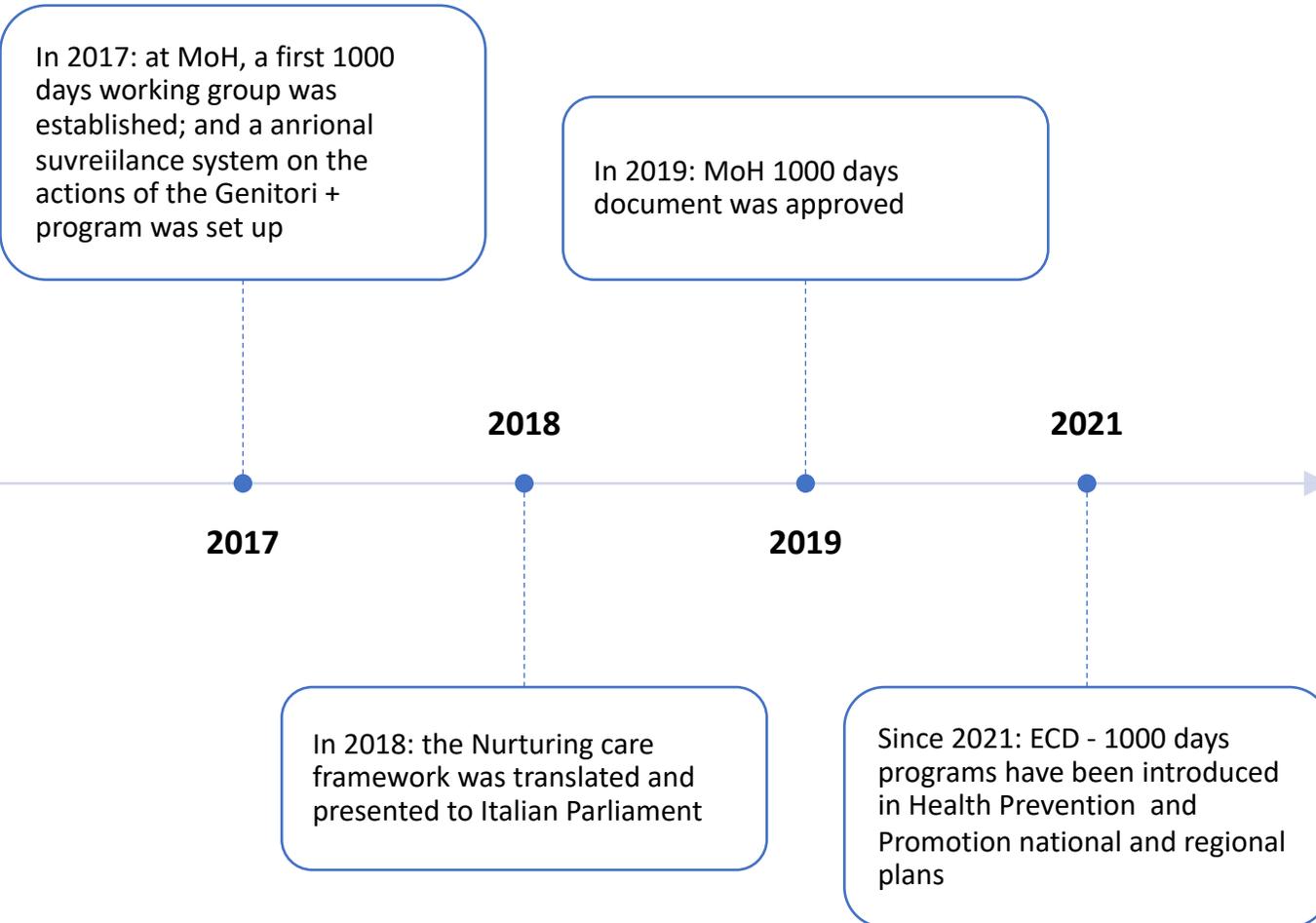
Nati per Leggere



Nati per la Musica

genit  ri più

# Brief history of when and how ECD concepts were introduced in Italy



**LA NURTURING CARE**  
PER LO SVILUPPO INFANTILE PRECOCE



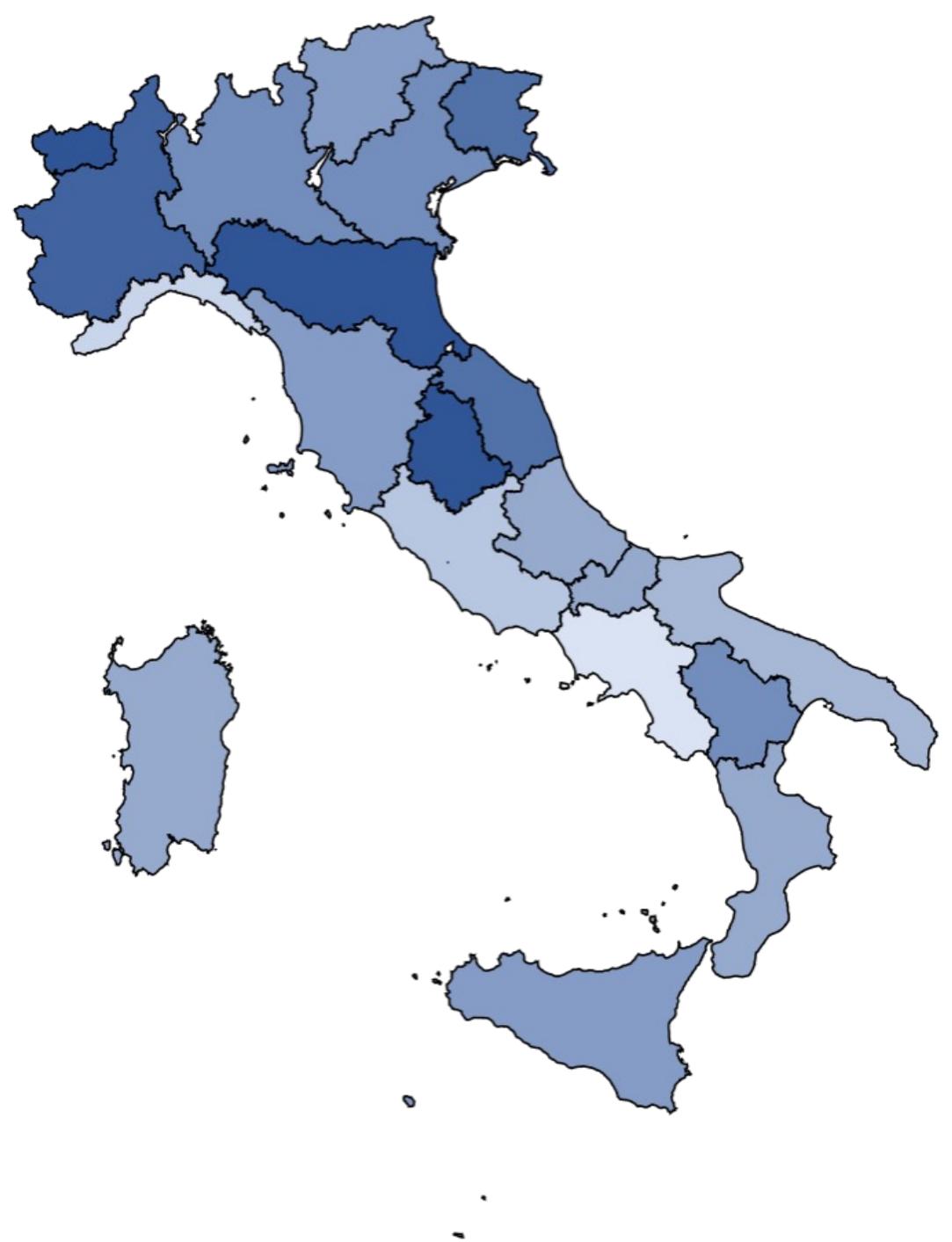
*Ministero della Salute*

**“Investire precocemente in salute:  
azioni e strategie nei primi mille giorni di vita”**  
*Documento di indirizzo per genitori, operatori sanitari e policy maker,  
per la protezione e promozione della salute dei bambini  
e delle generazioni future*

# State of the art of ECD mainstreaming in Primary Health care in Italy: the example of shared reading promotion

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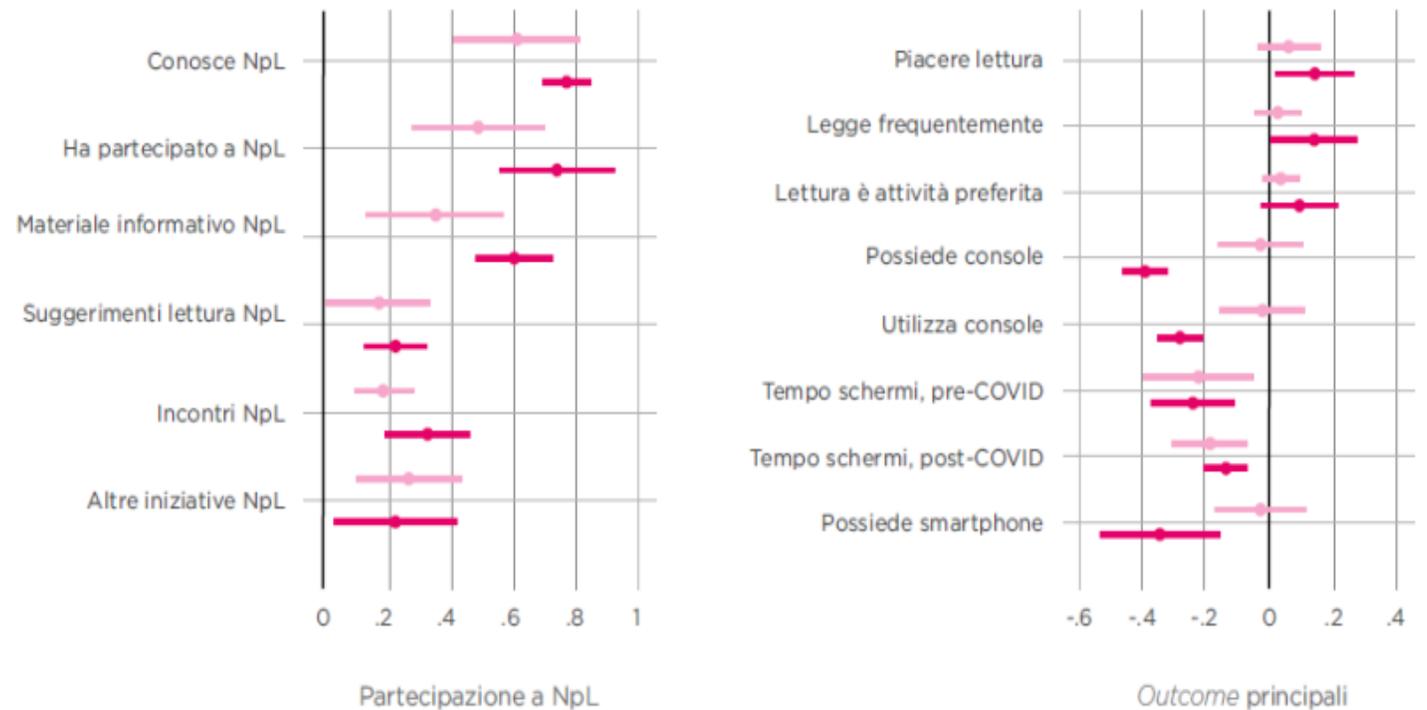
- In 2022, 1 out of 4 Primary care paediatricians were actively involved in Nati per Leggere, with significant regional differences



# State of the art of ECD mainstreaming in Primary Health care in Italy

- Evidence that active involvement of paediatricians makes a difference: stronger impact of Nati per Leggere on reading practice and appropriate use of Digital Devices depending on the involvement of primary care paediatricians

Figura 19 - Eterogeneità degli effetti, a seconda della qualità dei progetti locali



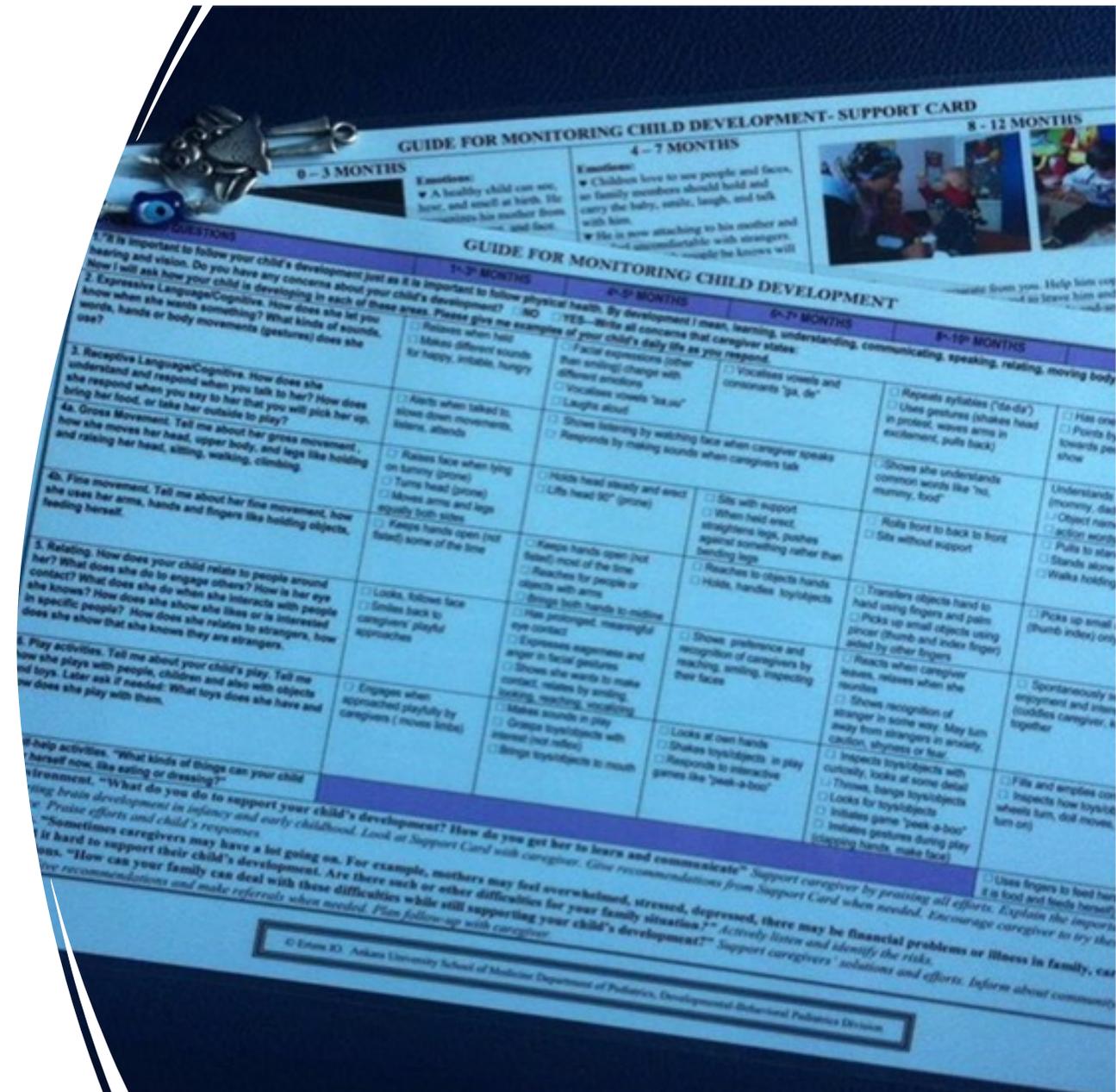
# Failure stories

A big effort to mainstream NC/ECD in primary paediatric practice was the introduction of the Guide for Monitoring Child Development (GMCD, by Ilgy Ertem et al.), in 2018

- training of trainers plus 42 paediatricians trained

- Covid was a big obstacle, as well as the two days required

- Trying now to restart the process



# Success stories

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Most Italian Regions now have introduced Nutruring Care – 1000 days concepts and practice into their prevention and promotion strategies

There is an increasing interest in NC/ECD among non medical primary care and hospital level health professionals such as midwives and nurses

# Strengths

Leading organization(s):

- CSB (advocacy, practice, multiprofessional training)
- MoH /NIH (institutional commitment, monitoring system)

# Weaknesses

- Lack of preservice training for HPs
- General lack of investment in health promotion and prevention
- Lack of cross-sector/system involvement

# Challenges

- System approach
- Pre-service training
- Multiprofessional training

# Opportunities

- Regional Health Prevention Plans
- Nurturing Care training module
- Child Guarantee Plan
- EU Projects on fathers' engagement in NC

# Tomorrow: a workshop for PC paediatricians

Factors that contribute to determine early child development (emphasis on the home environment and within this to responsive caregiving)

Evidence that promoting responsive caregiving is possible

What PCPs can do in their daily work with families to promote responsive caregiving

How to set up a system approach with all other services involved

Keep trying,  
somebody  
else will follow  
and then walk  
on your  
footsteps!

