

## Training and education

**Title:** *Bimbloteche*: an early-literacy bottom-up program in the town of Chivasso

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### Abstract

**Background:** Low literacy skills link to social & health inequalities. Shared reading aloud practices are effective in increasing community literacy and shaping both strong parental relationship and neural networks in children. Early literacy programs have shown to be effective if inclusive of the whole community, providing tools for resilience. Inspired by *Nati per Leggere*, a joint network of librarians, teachers, parents and a local pediatrician started *Bimbloteche*, a program aimed at increasing early literacy in 0-5 children.

**Objectives:** *Bimbloteche* is a book loan integrated with training activities for both teachers and parents. Training focuses on: i) quality of relationship during shared reading aloud practice, ii) its frequency iii) its duration iv) how to choose a book and v) how to organize a training event for parents. It is structured in 3 cycles lasting a year each, starting from September 2016. The project settled in nurseries and kindergartens, is included into the schools' curricula. Program evaluation use a mixed method approach. Quantitative evaluation aim at measuring changes in parents' reading habits by means of a pre-post comparison through the BABAR tool. A qualitative description approach shade a light into subjective experiences. Process and liking evaluation are also conducted. Following a public tender, a private corporation funded the activities.

**Results:** the whole community was involved into shaping an inclusive evidence-based community empowerment-training program aimed to reduce social inequalities. All the 22 city schools except one joined the program, allowing the involvement of more than 1000 children. A total of 14 teachers from 5 schools have concluded the first wave of training, satisfaction rating scored the highest.

**Conclusions:** An evidence-based early literacy promotion program was set within the community. *Bimbloteche* is a multidisciplinary bottom-up community network program, enriched with a mixed method evaluative approach.

### Main Messages:

- An inclusive, reproducible, community-based process is tuned to improve parental shared reading aloud habits and quality.
- Teachers as the main node, receiving and transmitting knowledge and skills.

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