The early years of life play a crucial role in every child’s learning and development with long-term impact. These years are even more meaningful for children in situations of greater vulnerability, namely those who lack access to quality solutions. Access to high quality early childhood services (education and health) can compromise equity and reduce disparities in learning outcomes at more advanced ages.

The Aga Khan Foundation has been developing and improving the quality of responses for children (prenatal up to 9 years of age) for more than 30 years. The goal is the development of a national reference model based on a child holistic approach, through an explicit pedagogy and the integration of services. It promotes a democratic culture that confers conditions of participation and voice to children, families and communities.

Supported by partnerships and networking, ongoing research, professional and organisational development processes, and robust assessment tools, the Foundation develops the Education and Early Childhood Development Programme. Its main pillars are the management of the Olivais Sul Early Childhood Centre, family literacy, parental development, in-context training and postgraduate training, intergenerational education, promotion of meaningful transitions, interculturality and the appreciation of the arts.
MILESTONES

1967: Establishment of the Aga Khan Foundation in Portugal
1983: Launch of the Education and Early Childhood Development Programme (ECD)
2004: Launch of Urban Community Support Programme (K'CIDADE)
2006: Support Parental Programme A PAR
2009: Partnership with Associação Criança
2011: 1st AKF Children's Collection: action-research results
2013: Master's degree in Early Childhood Education in partnership with UCP Lisboa
2015: Launch Family Literacy Programme “Conto Contigo”
2016: Launch Childminders and other Caregivers Training
2017: Intervention in the Metropolitan Area of Porto

PARTNERS

Associação Criança • Associação de Profissionais de Educação de Infância (APEI)
Bissaya Barreto Foundation • Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
Instituto Superior de Psicologia Aplicada (ISPA) • J.B. Fernandes Memorial Trust
Johnson & Johnson Corporate Citizenship Trust
Ministry of Culture: Directorate-General Book, Archives and Libraries
Ministry of Education: Directorate-General of Education • National Reading Plan 2027
National School Libraries Network • Universidade Aberta • Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP)
Universidade do Minho