

What is the Jacobs Foundation?

The Jacobs Foundation is a private foundation based in Switzerland that invests in the future of young people worldwide by promoting research into learning and development.

Quality education is essential for all children. However, to be effective, education needs to be backed by research and evidence. Ensuring that evidence-based research supports education systems and schools is at the heart of the work the Foundation does.

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How does the Foundation do this?



KNOWLEDGE HUBS

Everyone learns differently, so teachers and classrooms should take this into account. The Foundation is working to build a global knowledge hub outlining how and why children learn differently. It does this through supporting academic research programs that aim to improve education systems.

For example, [The Learning Variability Network Exchange \(LEVANTE\)](#)



SUPPORTING RESEARCH

The Foundation believes that supporting top-tier global research and encouraging cross-sectoral academic networks are critical to improving research into learning and development. It therefore supports researchers through a fellowship, a research prize, and a conference, bringing together researchers from around the world to share knowledge and connect.

For example, the [Jacobs Research Fellowship and the Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize.](#)



SHARING KNOWLEDGE

To bring about change, academic knowledge and best practices must be shared with those who teach and care for children. The Foundation's learning outreach can be seen in its two digital platforms—the [Digital Museum of Learning](#) and [BOLD](#)—which bring learning to life. Both are free, knowledge-sharing initiatives for teachers and caregivers that aim to improve education for children worldwide.



DESIGNING POLICY LABS

The Foundation works with education policy labs, often known as EdLabs, which are spaces where research and collaboration can take place to improve education policy and practice within a country by providing innovative solutions directly to policymakers. Policy labs can be owned by universities, public sector entities, independent NGOs, or embedded within government ministries. To improve policymaking at the national level on education, the Foundation works with education policy labs in four specific countries: Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Switzerland—representing a mix of income levels and educational systems to best understand how policy improvements can be implemented.

For example, the [EdLab in Ghana.](#)



CO-FUNDING

Finally, the Foundation works with governments to create co-funding mechanisms in its four core countries, designed to catalyze investment from governments, partner foundations, and private companies in proven education solutions.

For example, the [Child Learning and Education Facility in Côte d'Ivoire.](#)

How do we know we have been successful in improving children's learning outcomes?

- Worldwide information on learning and education has improved
- Academics are generating and sharing research into evidence-based best practices in learning and development
- Education policymakers and systems want to use data and evidence when designing policies
- Teachers and caregivers use equipment and learning techniques that are backed by data and evidence

Pathway to Change

By 2030, we aim to create a measurable impact on children's learning. Learning has always been at the heart of our strategy, but we are evolving our approach to better leverage our strengths and adapt to emerging challenges. By bridging the gap between global insights and local realities, we are ensuring that evidence-based practices don't just inform policies—they reach classrooms, equip teachers with effective tools, and improve learning outcomes for every child.

