

The Learning for Well Being Forum

In order to promote Education by All for the Well-being of Children, the Universal Education Foundation is seeking to create an international forum on '**Learning for Well-being**' which will bring together global and local actors from business, government and civil society, representing different learning environments, including media, ICT, education and healthcare.

The purpose of the forum is to put children's well-being on the education and health reform agendas. It will help to identify priorities and key insights by creating a trans-disciplinary space for mutual learning and discussion. We want to support a growing awareness of the importance of well-being in education by stimulating a paradigm shift that will bring about the required systemic changes. The forum will provide opportunities to:

- Share knowledge and initiate activities and co creative ventures to support children's well-being.
- Present and discuss the findings of the **Voice of Children Initiative** with a view to elaborate the appropriate policy recommendations and priorities for action.
- Showcase the initiatives of the **Elham Ambassadors** who will share their experiences with the Forum participants with a view to inspire further implementation.

The first **Learning for Well Being Forum** will be held in 2007 in the Middle East.

Education by All for the Well Being of Children

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Programme of activities

The UEF is implementing three inter-related core activities. They are:

1. The **Voice of Children Initiative** that will bring to public attention children's opinions about the impact of learning environments on their well being through the **Learning Environment Observatory** and facilitate their interaction through the **VOC Virtual Community**.
1. **Elham**, a program that will recognize and support significant contributions by individuals and teams that support the well-being of children in their learning environments.
2. The **Learning for Well-Being Forum** that will bring together local and global actors from education, health, ICT and media to provide opportunities to listen to children's voices, showcase Elham Ambassadors' initiatives and inspire new ventures.

Voice of Children Initiative

We believe that it is essential to engage children and young people as active participants in reshaping learning environments so that they become more supportive of their well-being. As the primary 'customers' of the education system and of many ICT and media programs, their perspectives on the learning environments in which they are growing up should provide significant input to education reform agendas.

Different ways of listening to children, such as research and the **VOC Virtual Community**, will be explored and implemented. Currently, the **Voice of Children** supports an ongoing program of international quantitative and qualitative surveys that study the ways in which learning environments (education, health, ICT and media) impact on children's well-being.

This **Voice of Children 'Learning Environment Observatory' (LEO)** is also developing and testing a research toolkit to study the impact of these environments on their well-being. UEF is developing a set of indicators to measure how the above learning environments contribute to children's physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual well-being. The results will be showcased in ways designed to inspire reform.

In 2006, the **Voice of Children Initiative** is being piloted in the Middle East (Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon) and will subsequently be piloted in Europe. The results and findings will be used to refine the content and methodology.

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The Elham Program

The Elham Program will identify, recognize, support and disseminate contributions by individuals and teams that are effective in promoting children's well-being in learning. They may take the form of policies, projects, materials, tools, etc., involving the learning environments prioritized by UEF. While there have been many developments over the last centuries in the theory and practice of holistic education and health, most of these innovations have not been integrated into mainstream education. Through the recognition and support of the **Elham Ambassadors**, the UEF will foster awareness as to how to effectively promote children's well-being.

Special emphasis will be placed on showcasing inspiring examples and success stories to constitute a valuable learning resource for interested actors. The UEF and its partners are developing transparent and robust processes for soliciting, reviewing and selecting nominations for the Elham Program. This includes developing the profile and roles of **Elham Ambassadors** and identifying different ways to support and invest in the selected initiatives. For this purpose, the UEF is consulting students, teachers, parents, school administrators, business people and civil society organizations. The design of Elham will take account of cultural and country-specific considerations.

The Elham Program will be piloted in Palestine in 2006 and in other countries of the Middle East in 2007.

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