





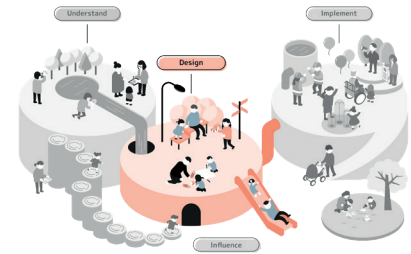
## Discussion forum

**What is it?** When working on interdisciplinary projects, such as the intersection of child and family-friendly cities and early childhood development, it may be challenging to identify “**what good looks like**” for your projects and processes. Bringing together interdisciplinary experts and interested stakeholders can be a solution. The Discussion forum has the power to unite different perspectives around an interdisciplinary agenda and **set quality standards** for your project.

**How to use it?** Agree with your team on the **best moment** in the project lifecycle for the Discussion forum. The recommendation is to organise it in the first part of the Design stage - you already need to have some ideas on possible projects, but still enough flexibility to include new options and change the direction of the project development. Taking into consideration your project's challenge and concept, draft a list of **speakers and themes** that you would like to gather your audience around. The forum could be internal or open to public.

**Keep in mind:** How will you **document** the debate and suggestions brought up in the discussion? Consider **video recording**, having a **note-taker** present, and organising a sense-making workshop soon after the activity (see **Feedback with analysis** tool in the **Implement** stage, Step 2).

-  **Format**  
activity
-  **Group size**  
big
-  **Time**  
a few hours
-  **Facilitation experience**  
high



This example shows a Discussion Forum that was part of “Sensing the City” project by **Espacio Lúdico**. It involved interactive discussions with:

- (1) **Cinde**, the centre for research and development for the deaf, in which residents could ask questions about the communication with and without knowing the sign language,
- (2) **Montevideo Lab**, the innovation laboratory within the participation department in the City Council, that talked about their approach towards children and caregivers in the city and
- (3) a workshop by **Espacio Lúdico** on the project that integrates these two themes.

The participants of the Forum included different municipality departments, such as transit and disabilities, the local council government, people from the deaf community, children and their caregivers, and neighbours living in the project area.