

A vital part of shaping and supporting cities

Child-friendly urban planning is a vital part of planning, design and management of cities that work for everyone.

Everyday freedoms

Playful behaviours and freedom to explore should be part of everyday life, throughout the city.

Children's infrastructure

The network of spaces, streets, nature and interventions which make up the key features of a child-friendly city.

Opportunities for children's infrastructure

- Streets and spaces in front of people's homes
- Intergenerational and multifunctional spaces
- Influencing everyday journeys
- Interventions at the neighbourhood scale
- Reducing car dependency and traffic dominance
- Connected green infrastructure networks

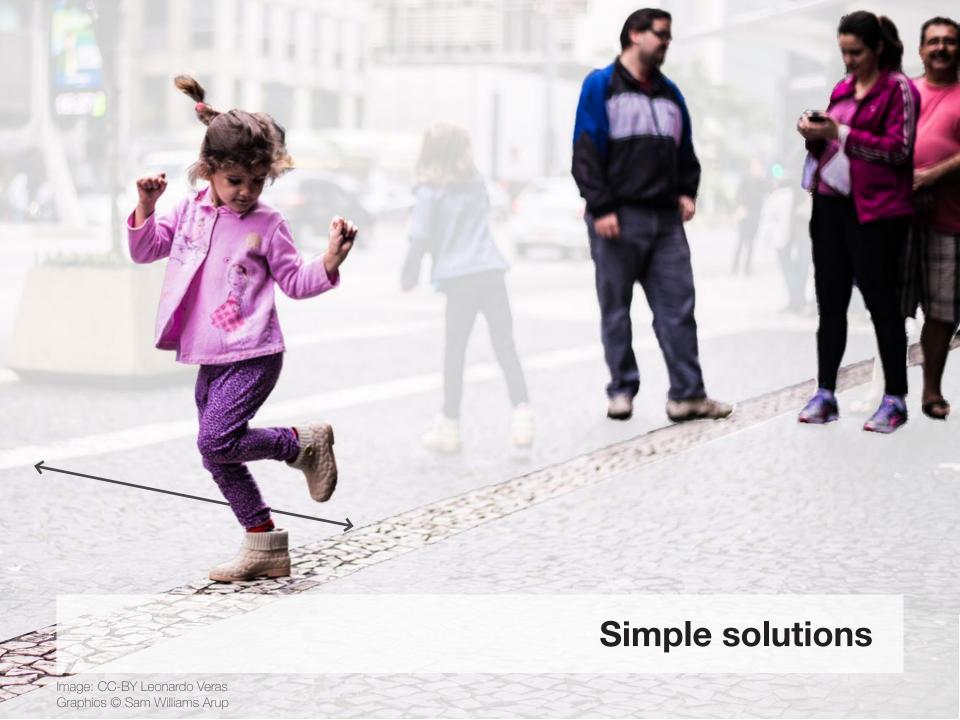
A catalyst for improving cities

Focusing on the needs of children has the potential to act as a unifying theme to navigate challenges and competing priorities, promote progressive ideas and gain support for ambitious actions.









Advocates for urban transformation

Bogotá and Tirana see children as agents of change, driving a sense of ownership and influencing behaviours from reduced car use to sustainable waste management.

Enouraging safe and active spaces

Barcelona is supporting physical activity with a radical superblocks strategy, restricting traffic to main roads and turning internal streets into safe and green 'citizen spaces'.

Attracting families for economic competitiveness

Private-sector led developments like
River District, Vancouver create vibrant
destinations that can attract and sustain new
communities and make flexible use of space.

Resilient and shared use cities

The City of Rotterdam reframed how city spaces were shared, transforming school yards into neighbourhood squares and creating parks that enhanced climate change resilience while offering opportunities for play.

Activating new neighbourhoods early on

Arts programming, urban gardens and a natural open air swimming pool generated activity in London King's Cross Central's outdoor spaces from the early stages of development.

Caring for nature and each other

Restoration of Natividad Creek Park in California supported intergenerational activity, becoming a space where young people avoid gangs and violence and learn about ecology.

Reclaiming streets through community action

Play Streets in Bristol, Melbourne, New York and Tokyo are small yet catalytic steps creating space and freedom for community interaction while highlighting problem areas for change.

Results that overcome resistance

A month-long experiment for a car free zone in Suwon, South Korea proved successful when residents voted to impose speed restrictions, parking controls and car-free weekends.

Actions and opportunities





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Designing for urban childhoods

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