**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

### Nicaragua

**Demographics**
- Population: 6,624,554
- Annual births: 131,048
- Children under 5: 656,942 (10%)
- Under-five mortality: 17/1,000

**Threats to Early Childhood Development**
- Maternal mortality: 98/100,000
- Low birthweight: 11%
- Child poverty: no data
- Violent discipline: no data

**Young children at risk of poor development**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

At risk in 2005, 2010 and 2015, using a composite indicator of under-five stunting or poverty.

**Support and services for early childhood development:**

**Nurturing care**

Parents and caregivers need a facilitating environment of laws, policies, services and community support to assist them in providing their young children with nurturing care.

**Facilitating environments**

**Policies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paid maternity leave (weeks)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
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Paid paternity leave (weeks)

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
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<td>None</td>
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**Nutrition**

- Early initiation of breastfeeding: 54%
- Exclusive breastfeeding: 32%
- Postnatal visits: no data
- Antenatal care (4 or more visits): 82%
- Minimum acceptable diet: no data

**Early learning**

- Early stimulation at home: no data
- Playthings at home: no data
- Children’s books in the home: no data
- Attendance in early childhood education: no data

**Security and safety**

- Birth registration: 85%
- Positive discipline: no data
- Basic drinking water: 82%
- Basic sanitation: 74%

**Responsive caregiving**

Public information about ECD
- Parental mental health
- Parent support (groups, home visits)
- Quality child day care

Comparative country data urgently needed

**International conventions**

- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption

DETAILED COUNTRY DATA SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES CAN BE FOUND IN THE MASTER DATABASE AT NURTURING-CARE.ORG