



#eval15
@orsimpact

Contribution analysis in a multi-level, multi-actor strategy

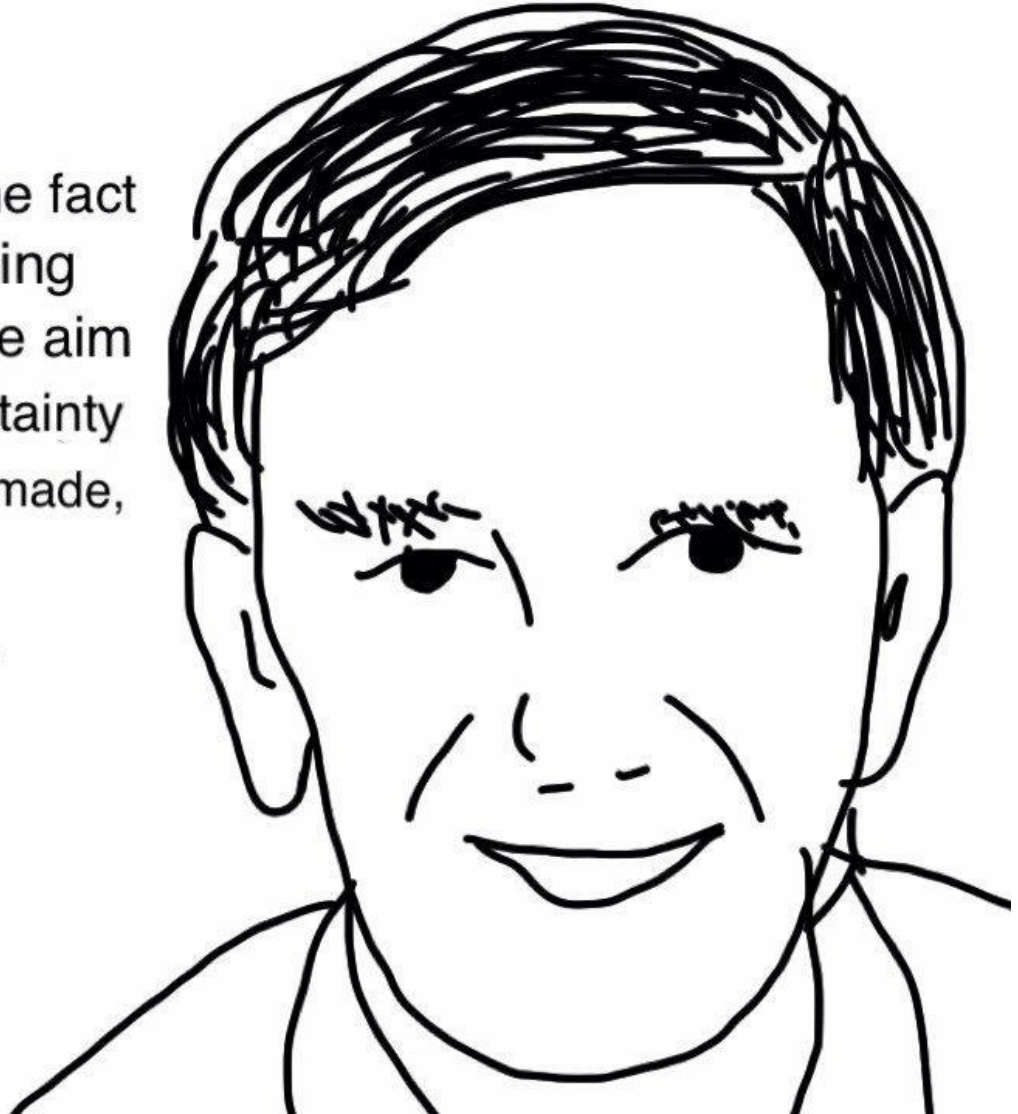
Carlyn Orians



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We need to accept the fact that what we are doing is measuring with the aim of reducing the uncertainty about the contribution made, not proving the contribution made.

John Mayne, 1999



Typical steps in contribution analysis

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5. Seek additional evidence as needed
6. Revise and strengthen the contribution story

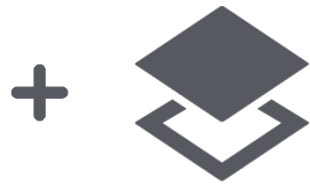




Multiple strategies



Many partners



Multiple levels



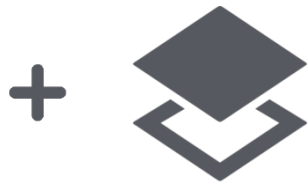
Multiple strategies



Many partners



Dynamic environment



Multiple levels



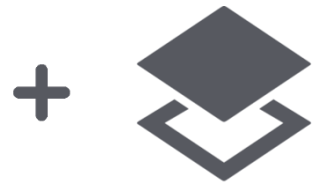
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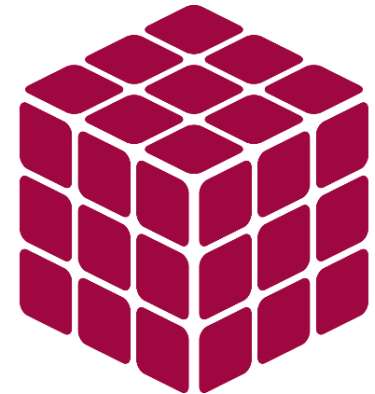
Multiple strategies

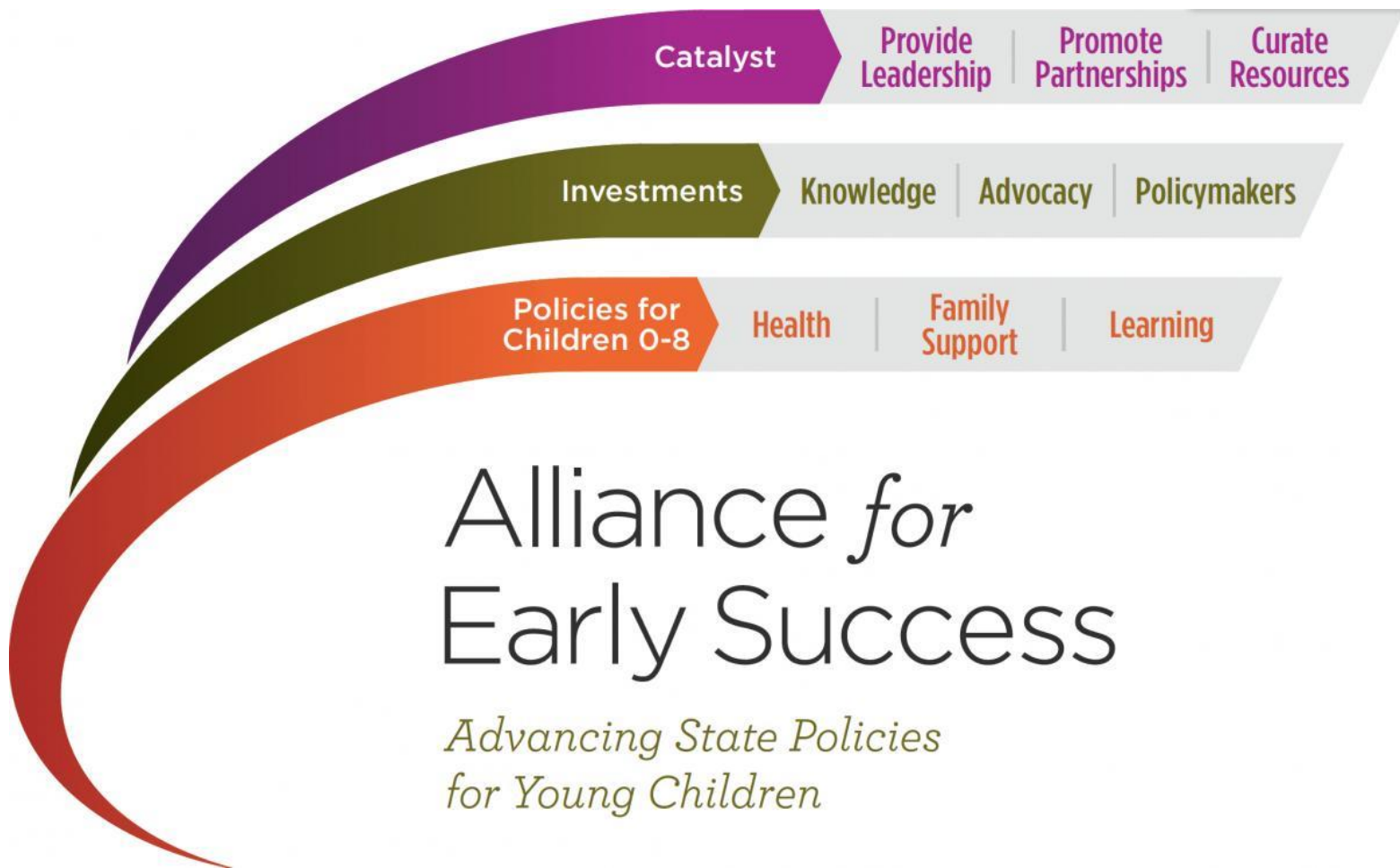


Many partners



Contribution
Challenge!





Alliance *for* Early Success

*Advancing State Policies
for Young Children*

Framing the evaluation



Boundary Setting

Include ***all*** activities and strategies by
Alliance and partners

Exclude related activities in which
partners not engaged

Framing the evaluation



Boundary Setting

Include **all** activities and strategies by Alliance and partners

Exclude related activities in which partners not engaged

Question Framing

Check plausibility of results chain

Link activities/strategies to results

Explore alternative explanations

Collecting the data



Verification

Verify state policies and budgets
Confirm with interviewees

Collecting the data



Verification

Verify state policies and budgets
Confirm with interviewees

Sample

Select focus states
Select partners and bellwethers

Collecting the data



Verification

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Select partners and bellwethers

Context

What else is happening federally?
Locally?

Assembling the contribution story



Assemble

Build evidence chain

Assembling the contribution story



Assemble

Build evidence chain

Test

Test with stakeholders

Explore alternative explanations

Collect more evidence

Assembling the contribution story



Assemble

Build evidence chain

Test

Test with stakeholders

Explore alternative explanations

Collect more evidence

Strengthen

Revising the contribution story,
acknowledging limitations

Call me when you're
100% certain



Well I wouldn't wait
by the phone if I
were you






freshspectrum.com

Fit for Purpose:

When is contribution analysis the right choice?




Good fit for purpose: Alliance

-  Confirm choice of partners
-  Elucidate trends and directionality
-  Identify strategies that are working/not working



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What if purpose is to....

-  Prove contribution of particular strategy?
-  Quantify level of contribution?

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