

## **RESEARCH PROJECT**

**At the Roots of Child Development: On the Role of Parental Beliefs, Preferences and Engagement**

**Proponent: Prof. Margherita Fort**

**Research team: Maria Bigoni (PRIN, P.I. for the project), Chiara Monfardini, Daniela Iorio, Tiziano Arduini**

### **Purpose of the project and research program**

We investigate the determinants of parenting practices and parental engagement, by means of a large scale RCT intervention on parents of pre-school children. The project comprises three pillars: i) a theoretical model of parental investment; ii) a novel longitudinal dataset on and parents' attitudes, beliefs, and time-use in activities that involve their child; iii) the exogenous variation in parental beliefs and time-investments induced by a psycho-educational intervention that targets parents through an RCT. We aim at contributing to the creation of a sound empirical and theoretical basis for the design of policies promoting parental engagement and a positive relation between parents and children, which is known to impact on children's well-being and long-term development.

### **Activity Program**

The fellowship will start in October-November 2020 and will run until September-October 2021. The ideal candidate with a recently obtained a Master degree in Economics or Statistics, with research interests in Economics of Education, with solid experience in applied econometrics/data analysis will closely work with the research group in a common environment with frequent meetings, and will be involved in the following tasks:

- a) implementation of the RCT
- b) field work in preschools in the metropolitan area of Bologna: managing and collecting data. This task will require to keep contact (remotely or in person) with different preschools in the metropolitan area of Bologna and with parents participating to the study.
- c) data collection, data cleaning and data analysis, also interacting with Indici Opponibili, the developer of an APP designed for the project
- d) preparation of non-academic presentations for the municipal administration
- e) contributing to the dissemination of research output (academic and non-academic articles, conferences and seminars)
- f) help the organization of events related to the project

The research fellow will interact will all team members Maria Bigoni (PRIN, P.I. for the project), Chiara Monfardini, Daniela Iorio, Tiziano Arduini, who have different areas of expertise required for the project development and will thus benefit from a stimulating research environment. She/he will be invited to actively participate to the Department research activities and contribute presenting her/his research outputs.