

# Reach & Match: Partnering for Change and Impact

## The evidence-based play-based program supports inclusive early education

### 1. Executive Summary

Reach & Match is a multi-award-winning, evidence-based learning program designed to foster inclusive education for children of all abilities. By integrating multisensory, play-based learning, the program supports early childhood development, special education, and humanitarian initiatives worldwide.

With a strong foundation in research, global partnerships, and proven impact, Reach & Match is recognized as a valuable tool to support early childhood learning outcomes and the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream Early Childhood Education (ECE) services and preschools.

### 2. About Reach & Match®

#### Vision

To create an inclusive world where every child, regardless of ability, has access to high-quality, inclusive education and the opportunity to thrive.

#### Mission

Reach & Match® transforms education with evidence-based, accessible, and adaptable tools that empower all children, especially those with disabilities, to reach their full potential. We provide innovative solutions that support inclusive education across diverse cultural contexts, equipping educators with multisensory learning resources, effective training, and tools that foster learning engagement, social inclusion, and emotional well-being.



### 3. Theory of Change: Driving Systemic Impact

Reach & Match operates on a structured Theory of Change to ensure measurable, lasting impact in inclusive education:

- **Inputs** – Providing adaptable learning kits, training programs, and evidence-based teaching strategies.
- **Activities** – Implementing Reach & Match through educator training, curriculum integration, and community outreach.
- **Outcomes** – Enabling enhanced early literacy, cognitive development, motor skills, and inclusive classroom participation.
- **Impact** – Creating sustainable, scalable improvements in education systems, ensuring long-term accessibility and inclusion for children with and without disabilities.

### 4. Reach & Match Program Components

#### Reach & Match Inclusive Education Kit

A multisensory, play-based learning tool designed for inclusive education. It features four double-sided sensory play mats that can be arranged in 2D and 3D configurations to support diverse learning styles, 26 braille and print alphabet tiles with tactile and auditory elements, and a portable design with a cushion and storage bag for easy transport.

#### Reach & Match Light

A compact version of the learning kit designed for portability and accessibility, ideal for home-based learning, traveling educators, and therapy settings.

#### Braille & Print Alphabet and Number Tiles

A dedicated set of tactile learning tiles designed to enhance early literacy and numeracy development for children with and without disabilities.

#### Activity Book & Structured Learning Framework

A curriculum-aligned resource providing 40+ structured activities targeting literacy, cognitive, sensory, motor, and social-emotional skills.

#### Comprehensive Educator & Professional Training

Interactive training programs designed for teachers, therapists, and specialists, ensuring effective implementation of the program.

#### Monitoring & Evaluation Tools

Globally recognized assessment tools to track learning progress, engagement, and program impact.

### 5. The Unique Value Proposition – Why Reach & Match®?

- **Evidence-Based & Research-Backed**– Supported by rigorous postgraduate research, aligning with international education goals.
- **Inclusive & Multisensory Design**– Supports all children, including those with visual impairment, autism, developmental delays, and mobility challenges.
- **Global Early Learning Framework** – Interactive and sensory-rich, a demonstrated track record in enhancing children's participation, learning outcomes and emotional wellbeing.

- **Scalability & Adaptability**—Proven effectiveness in diverse settings, from urban schools to rural and underserved communities.
- **Crisis-Response & Emergency Adaptability**— Durable, portable, and independent of electricity, ideal for emergency and conflict-affected regions.
- **Proven Collaboration & Sustainability**— Trusted by leading NGOs, professionals, and education ministries.
- **Comprehensive Training & Monitoring**— Offers trainer-of-trainer (ToT) models and robust evaluation tools.
- **Sustainability & Quality**— The durable, shareable Reach & Match kits provide a high-quality, sustainable solution for early learning and inclusive education.

## 6. Reach & Match Strategic Partnerships and Global Impact

### 6.1 Implementation in Developed Countries

#### Early Childhood Education Partnerships

- **Preschools & Kindergartens** – Reach & Match aligns with early learning outcomes, supports curriculum integration, and is used in preschools and kindergartens globally. In Hong Kong, it is implemented in 21 Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) Nursery Schools and 16 Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children Kindergartens, collectively serving over 6,000 children.

#### Special Education & Disability Services

- **U.S. Federal Quota Fund & APH Partnership** – Reach & Match is approved by the U.S. Federal Quota Fund and distributed in partnership with the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) to schools across the U.S., providing inclusive learning support for children with vision impairments and multiple disabilities.
- **Disability Organizations** – Collaborated with leading organisations, including Vision Australia, Guide Dogs Australia, Bartiméus (Netherlands), Synscenter Refsnæs (Denmark), Valteri (Finland) and many others. In Singapore, a pilot program was launched with SG Enable, introducing Reach & Match to eight schools and organizations.
- **Special Schools & Inclusive Classrooms** – Supports children with vision impairment, autism, Down syndrome, and multiple learning needs. Used in schools, therapy centers, and specialist programs, it enhances early literacy, cognitive development, and inclusion across Australia, Europe, Asia, and North America.

#### Community & Library Programs

- **Public Libraries** – Expanded inclusive learning opportunities in Australia, Europe, and other countries, ensuring accessibility in community spaces.

## 6.2 Implementation in Humanitarian and Education in Emergencies Contexts



### Global Recognition & Award by UNICEF

- The inception of Reach & Match was marked by international recognition in 2010. At the research stage, it was awarded second place in the INDEX Education Challenge, supported by UNICEF. The novel idea behind Reach & Match was presented at the UN ECOSOC innovation fair.

### Post-Conflict Recovery in the Philippines (Marawi & Lanao de Sur)

- Reach & Match was one of seven global winners from 370 global applications of the 2017 OpenIDEO Education in Emergencies (EiE) Challenge, securing a share of a \$2 million USD grant from the Australian Government DFAT.
- With this support, Reach & Match partnered with Save the Children and Plan International to implement inclusive education initiatives in conflict-affected areas of the Philippines.
- The initiative reached 2,400+ children and improved participation, learning outcomes, attendance, and emotional well-being in schools affected by the Marawi siege. ([Project Video](#))

### Australian Government DFAT Endorsement

- The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) endorsed and supported Reach & Match as a proven solution for inclusive education in emergency settings.
- This recognition further solidified Reach & Match's role as an effective education innovation for children with disabilities in humanitarian contexts.

### Pacific Region Implementation with Save the Children

- Partnership with Save the Children in the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea (PNG) to support inclusive education.
- Significant learning improvements observed in children with disabilities across eight Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and Inclusive Education Resource Centres (IERCs) in three PNG provinces.
- Australian DFAT-funded Rapidly Improving Standards in Elementary (RISE) program:
  - Implemented in partnership with Save the Children and Callan Services.
  - Supported 177 children (ages 3–7), including 62 children with disabilities.
  - Implemented across eight ECCE and IERCs in three provinces of PNG.
- Demonstrates Reach & Match's commitment to inclusive education and positive development for children with diverse needs and abilities.

## COVID-19 Education Response with UNICEF PNG & ChildFund PNG

- In 2021-2022, in response to educational disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Reach & Match partnered with UNICEF PNG and ChildFund PNG under the Education in [Emergency Response and Recovery Plan \(EERRP\)](#).
- The partnership supported over 400 children with disabilities across nine Inclusive Education Resource Centres (IERCs) in five provinces.
- Teachers developed inclusive teaching skills to support early childhood learning outcomes.

## Expanding Impact in Rural and Tribal Communities with World Vision Thailand

- In 2022, Reach & Match collaborated with World Vision Thailand on the "School Readiness and Learning Through Play" project.
- The initiative reached 334 children across 10 locations, including ECD centres, schools, and churches, expanding the program's impact on rural and tribal communities.
- The project led to enhanced learning outcomes and greater engagement among marginalized children. [\(Project Video\)](#)

## 8. Global Recognitions

### Awards in Education, Social Impact & Assistive Technology

- 2024 Zero Project Award (Inclusive Education & Early Intervention)
- 2024 Zero Project Scaling Solution Fellowship
- 2023 Westpac Social Change Fellowship
- 2022 MIT Solve LEAP Global Education Challenge Finalist
- 2020 HundrED Innovation (100 of brightest Education innovation)
- 2019 Program endorsement by the Australian Government DFAT
- 2017 OpenIDEO Education in Emergencies Challenge Global Winner
- 2017 Unleash SDG Global Talent (SDG4)
- 2017 Louis Braille Touch of Genius Prize
- 2016 Singularity University Impact Fellowship (NASA Research Park)
- 2016 Good Design Award Winner (Social Impact)
- 2013 Well-Tech Award Accessibility Winner
- 2012 James Dyson Award National Winner
- 2012 Red Dot Design Award Winner
- 2012 Core 77 Design Awards
- 2012 Melbourne Design Awards Winner
- 2011 INDEX: Design for Education (Runner-up), supported by UNICEF
- 2011 Monash University Vice-Chancellor's Social Inclusion Award

### Global Exhibitions & Showcases

- Good Design Sydney, 2016
- Design Museum of Barcelona - Design for Life Exhibition, 2015
- Milan Design Week, Palazzo Isimbardi, Milan, Italy, 2013
- Red Dot Design Museum, Singapore, 2012
- United Nations ECOSOC Innovation Fair, Geneva, Switzerland, 2011
- United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA, 2011



## 9. Founder's Vision

**Mandy Lau, BEng (Hons), MDes**

**Mandy Lau** is an award-winning designer and social innovator dedicated to transforming inclusive education. She developed a globally recognized learning program that has empowered tens of thousands of children with disabilities and disadvantages to learn, play, and thrive.

She believes true inclusion is built through collaboration. Her work extends beyond borders, implemented in partnership with UNICEF, Save the Children, and leading global education organisations, ensuring that every child, regardless of ability, has access to quality learning opportunities.



Mandy's contributions have been recognised with prestigious accolades, including the Samsung Talents Award, James Dyson Award, and Monash University Vice-Chancellor's Social Inclusion Award. She is also a Zero Project Scaling Fellow, Singularity University Impact Fellow, and a Westpac Social Change Fellow2023—one of 10 Australian social innovators selected, with her focus on advancing inclusive early education through play.

## 10. Reach & Match: A Commitment to Inclusion & Collaboration

If you are passionate about inclusive education, early childhood development, or education in emergencies, we invite you to collaborate with us. How you can get involved:

- Education & Government Agencies – Integrate Reach & Match into schools, early learning centres, and national education programs.
- NGOs & Humanitarian Organizations – Implement inclusive learning solutions in crisis-affected and underserved communities.
- Foundations & Corporates – Support and sponsor initiatives that provide equitable education for children with disabilities.
- Research & Development Partners – Collaborate with us to further enhance the program through evidence-based studies.

Get in Touch: To explore partnership opportunities, contact our founder Mandy Lau, [mandy.lau@reachandmatch.com](mailto:mandy.lau@reachandmatch.com) or visit [www.reachandmatch.com](http://www.reachandmatch.com) for more details.

