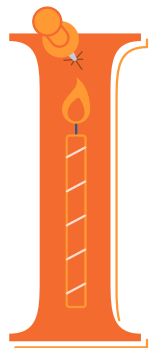


BY DAPHNA THIER AND MARIANELA D'APRILE

## Why universal programs are a good thing, actually



Imagine you are seven years old. You arrive at your best friend Sara's birthday party. She is turning six. In the corner, there's a big cake.

After Sara has blown out the candles, her mom tells all the kids that in order to get a piece of cake, they'll have to play Pin the Tail on the Donkey. Whoever gets the closest will get the biggest piece of cake, the next-closest will get a smaller piece, and so on and so forth.



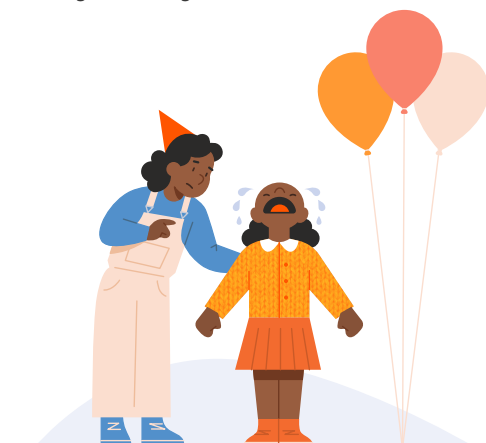
The donkey is really high up on the wall, so only Johnny, your tallest friend, can reach it. He gets a big piece of cake. Ellie, Sara's little sister, is too short to reach at all, so she doesn't get any.

Johnny's eaten so much cake that he's sick, and Ellie is crying because she can't have any.

Sound ridiculous? Yes, it does. There was enough cake for everyone, and no one had to get sick or go without.

This is also how we divide up other things everyone should have. Some kids, just because of where they live, go to better schools than others. Some people, just because of where they work, have better healthcare than others.

But everyone needs education, and everyone needs healthcare. Just like every kid at a birthday party needs cake.



Illustrations by Paul Zappia