Who we are:
Yale School of Medicine researchers dedicated to promoting the emotional health of all women and children.

What we know:
- The future of a country depends on its ability to foster the health of the next generation.
- One of the first health experiences an infant has is a mother’s care in the form of the mother-infant bond.
- The mother-infant bond is extremely crucial to the child’s development because it lays the foundation for all of the child’s future interactions with society.
- The effects of a healthy mother-infant bond are directly reflected throughout the child’s life in the form of health, self-confidence, motivation to learn, achievement in school, formation and maintenance of relationships—and ultimately the potential to become a successful parent.
- Positive social connections (friends, family, neighbors, community leaders) promote the mother-infant bond and overall maternal and infant emotional health.
- Healthy social connections are essential for supporting a mother’s ability to parent.

The Problem:
New mothers may feel socially isolated after giving birth, thereby making it more difficult to form a healthy mother-infant bond with their baby. This could result in a large number of children left without the critical opportunities to learn key social and emotional skills that give them the building blocks to be fully productive and engaged members of society.
The Opportunity:
There is a critical bond between mother and infant, which Momba seeks to influence. This bond is valuable for both mother and child and cannot be fostered in isolation, but instead it must be supported and created through a community.

Our Mission:
Momba connects new mothers with their babies, each other, and their community to promote a healthy mother-infant relationship, strong social and emotional bonds, and supportive, sustainable neighborhoods.

How we will do this:
We will provide exclusive access to a social media application that connects new mothers locally and uses a motivational reward system to promote healthy mother-infant interaction, social connectedness, and community engagement. We aim for mom-to-mom connections to build sustainable support systems and provide access to local resources.

Our Expertise:

Dr. Linda Mayes is the Arnold Gesell Professor of Child Psychiatry, Pediatrics, and Psychology in the Yale Child Study Center at the Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Mayes is an expert with over 30 years of experience working on maternal-infant health.

Dr. Megan Smith is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Public Health and in the Child Study Center at the Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Smith has over twelve years of experience working on community-based interventions to increase social capital, social networks, and health among families.

For More Information Contact:
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