Engaging Infant and Toddler Families in Quality Infant/Toddler Family Child Care

Saint Louis, MO
May 10, 2017
Introducing the State Capacity Building Center

- Ensures the effectiveness of programs implemented under the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
- Develops strategies to improve the quality and increase the supply of infant and toddler services
- Advances the development of early childhood systems
Our Purpose

- To support the effective implementation of the new Early Head Start-Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnership grantees to deliver high-quality comprehensive services to low-income infants, toddlers, and their families.

Our Approach

- To provide training, resources, and materials to federal staff, Office of Head Start (OHS) and Office of Child Care (OCC) Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) providers, Head Start Collaboration Offices, and CCDF Administrators so that all are equipped to meet the needs of new EHS-CC partnerships.
Session Goals

1. Explore key messages on family engagement to consider the implications for family child care (FCC)
2. Identify the link between relationship-based care and family engagement
3. Consider opportunities and challenges for promoting family engagement in FCC programs
4. Share how States/Territories are supporting family engagement in FCC programs
Family Engagement - Key Messages

**Level 1**
The experiences of young children are connected with the experiences of their families.

**Level 2**
The experiences of young children are connected with the experiences of their families.

**Level 3**
Effective family engagement opportunities in early care and education settings are an indicator of quality early childhood programming.

**Level 4**
States and territories should affirm family engagement as a crucial element in promoting children’s learning, development, and wellness; and develop specific, measurable family engagement implementation goals for early childhood systems and programs.

Positive parenting and family engagement are key to promoting children's healthy development and well-being.
Family Engagement is defined as:

- The **systematic inclusion** of families as partners in children’s development, learning, and wellness.

- Parent and family engagement activities are grounded in positive, ongoing, and goal-oriented **relationships** with families.

How does family engagement differ from parent involvement/parent education?

Relationships
the state of being connected

Share a time when you felt connected.

Why did you feel connected?
Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC)

Essential Program Practices

- Individualized care
- Inclusion of children with special needs
- Culturally sensitive care
- Small group size
- Continuity of care
- Primary care

Source: Program for Infant/Toddler Care

https://www.pitc.org/pub/pitc_docs/policies.html
Challenges in Implementing Family Engagement - Systems Level

- The perception that family engagement is supplemental
- Ineffective engagement with diverse families
- A need to integrate family engagement into state and program policies and requirements
- Insufficient workforce preparation and a lack of resources to support implementation
Characteristics of Family Child Care (FCC) Providers

- Work long hours
- Serve mixed age groups
- Balance multiple roles
- Work in isolation

FCC has a history of being undervalued.
Strategies to Promote Family Engagement in Family Child Care Settings
Strategy: Build Collaborations
Strategy: EHS-CC Partnerships

**EARLY HEAD START—CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIPS**

275 EHS-CC PARTNERSHIPS AND EXPANSION GRANTS

- **1,000** FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES
- **1,400** CHILD CARE CENTERS
- **3,900** EHS-CC CLASSES

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
8,000+
Teachers and Staff Benefit from Enhancements

**FUNDED ENROLLMENT**
32,000
Infants and Toddlers

**WIDE-REACHING POSITIVE IMPACT**
7,800
Non EHS-CCP Children Benefitting in the Same Classrooms

EHS-CC Partnerships and Expansion Make a Difference!
- Increased access to high-quality early learning environments
- An educated and fully qualified workforce for infants and toddlers
- Improved well-being of families and more children ready to learn
Building Partnerships and Family Child Care
Video Clip

TEAM interview-David Family Child Care Partnering
Promising Practices Highlights: Partnerships in Family Child Care
Strategy: Embed Family Engagement Elements into All Levels of the Child Care System

- QRIS
- Licensing
- Core Knowledge & Competencies
- Infant/Toddler Credentials & Pathways
- Professional Development
Example: Promising Practices of Family Engagement Elements in QRIS

Arkansas Better Beginnings

Idaho STARS

Vermont STARS

Washington Early Achievers

Delaware STARS
QRIS with Selected Family Partnership Indicators for Family Child Care

Promising Practices

Vermont’s Child Care Licensing Regulations for Family Child Care Homes (FCCH)

Section 4 - Parent/Family Engagement in Their Children’s Care:

Michigan’s Core Knowledge and Core Competencies for the Early Care and Education Workforce

Competency Area: Workforce-Family and Community Engagement:
Professional Development & Infant/Toddler Credentials

Professional development providers and higher education can ensure family child care providers have the

- knowledge
- skills
- support
- resources

needed to build strong partnerships with families.
Strategy: Embed Family Engagement Elements into All Levels of the Child Care System

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## Strategy: Develop Staffed FCC Networks and Collaborate with FCC Associations

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<th>FCC Network</th>
<th>FCC Association</th>
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<td>FCC networks are funded programs that provide supports and services to meet the unique needs of FCC providers through staffed network personnel who have specialized education and expertise specific to FCC providers.</td>
<td>FCC provider associations are membership organizations composed of FCC providers and other members of the early care and education field who join together to enhance family child care professionalism. Associations may be local, state, or national.</td>
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Opportunities - Table Talk

- Review the Opportunities Handout.
- Share one strategy that your State/Territory could use or currently uses to support family engagement in FCC programs.
Resources


Resources


Thank you for all you do to support infants, toddlers and families!

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