

GOAL 1

Families are Strong and Supportive

ACTION AREAS

Parents manage stress, develop resilience and sustain trusting relationships.

Parents establish connections that offer resources for problem solving and create opportunities to give and get support.

Parents access concrete supports in times of need, including economic benefits and services to address violence, substance abuse and mental illness.

Parents gain knowledge about parenting and child development and are supported as primary decision-makers.

GOAL 2

Births are Healthy and Well-Timed

ACTION AREAS

Women obtain high quality health care and family planning services.

Expectant parents access affordable prenatal care, emotional supports and healthy nutrition.

Parents of infants receive on-going support to promote bonding and healthy development.

Teens engage in activities that compete successfully with early childbearing.

GOAL 3

Children are Safe, Healthy and Developing on Track

ACTION AREAS

Children have a regular source of health care including periodic developmental screening and follow-up.

Families access healthy food and participate in safe physical activities.

Families receive support to keep children safe and protect them from abuse and neglect.

Professionals coordinate care to promote well-being across domains including physical and mental health.

GOAL 4

Children are Emotionally, Socially and Cognitively Ready for School

ACTION AREAS

Families access high quality and culturally competent early childhood education

Early care and education programs connect to health, mental health, developmental and other social services.

Education and social service providers support successful transition to school for children and parents.

GOAL 5

Children Perform on Grade Level

ACTION AREAS

Schools maintain excellent teaching and create conditions for deep exploration and mastery of skills.

Education systems identify and remedy achievement gaps and accommodate children with special needs.

Schools and families monitor and address obstacles to consistent student attendance.

Schools align curricula and communicate with service providers to promote continuity for children and families.

Components of Effective Early Childhood Initiatives

Lessons from research, practice and policy about improving outcomes for families with young children teach us that effective initiatives start with desired results, recognize the existing contexts and build on a collective commitment to key factors that focus on the whole child.

Goals

Communities implement strategies to help families and children.

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Children Perform on Grade Level

Contexts

Decision-makers consider local circumstances and opportunities.

Public Policy

Public policies promote child and family well-being, advance equity, improve the performance of public systems and strengthen communities.

Systems

Public and private services and supports are accessible, coordinated and sequenced to be easily navigated by families as their needs change over time.

Communities

Strong communities help support families by providing safe and connected environments for children to thrive.

Factors for Success

Decision-makers consider the following factors to guide work and track performance.

Engage stakeholders with a shared vision and explicit results.

Start early to build protective factors and address health and developmental concerns.

Incorporate formal services, informal supports and opportunities into a continuum of care.

Intentionally align services, coordinate points of entry and monitor transitions for families completing programs.

Engage parents or primary caregivers as key decision-makers and trust them to make the best choices for their family given adequate information and supports.

Design services and supports to reach families with diverse cultural backgrounds, values and languages.

Create a management infrastructure that tracks impact, communicates effectively, maintains high quality and promotes accountability.

Support the professional development of staff across sectors in a culture of collaboration, continuous learning and innovation.