

Introduction to Early Head Start Classrooms

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Head Start Regional TTA Network

What Year Did Early Head Start Begin?

- 1- 1965
- 2- 1980
- 3- 1995
- 4- 1998
- 5- 2000

1995



Objectives

- Overview of the early head start program and the significance.
- Explore program options within early head start.
- Discuss staff requirements and qualifications for early head start programs



Poll question

- New EHS
- Home-Based
- Conversion of slots
- Adding EHS to the program
- Other



Early Head Start

- *Similar services as preschool Head Start programs*
- *Tailored for the unique needs of infants and toddlers*



Overview of Early Head Start Programs



Age Requirements

- Pregnant women/prenatal
- Young Infants
- Mobile Infants
- Toddlers
- Twos

Engaging Teen Parents



- Balance teen life experiences with parenting and family demands.
- Working with teen parents to help them build healthy and safe relationships.
- Supporting teen parents in managing roles within extended families.
- Seeking appropriate mental health services.
- Providing relevant parenting education for teens including teen fatherhood and family life.
Considerations for programs working with teen parents

Comprehensive Services

Program
Management

Education and
Child
Development

Family and
Community

Health

Cross-Cutting
Approaches



Early Head Start Programs



- Family-centered services for low-income families
- Promotes the development of children and enables their parents to fulfill their role as parents and move towards self-sufficiency.
- Services tailored to the unique needs of infants and toddlers through safe developmentally enriched caregiving.
- Support for parents in their role as primary caregivers and teachers of their children.

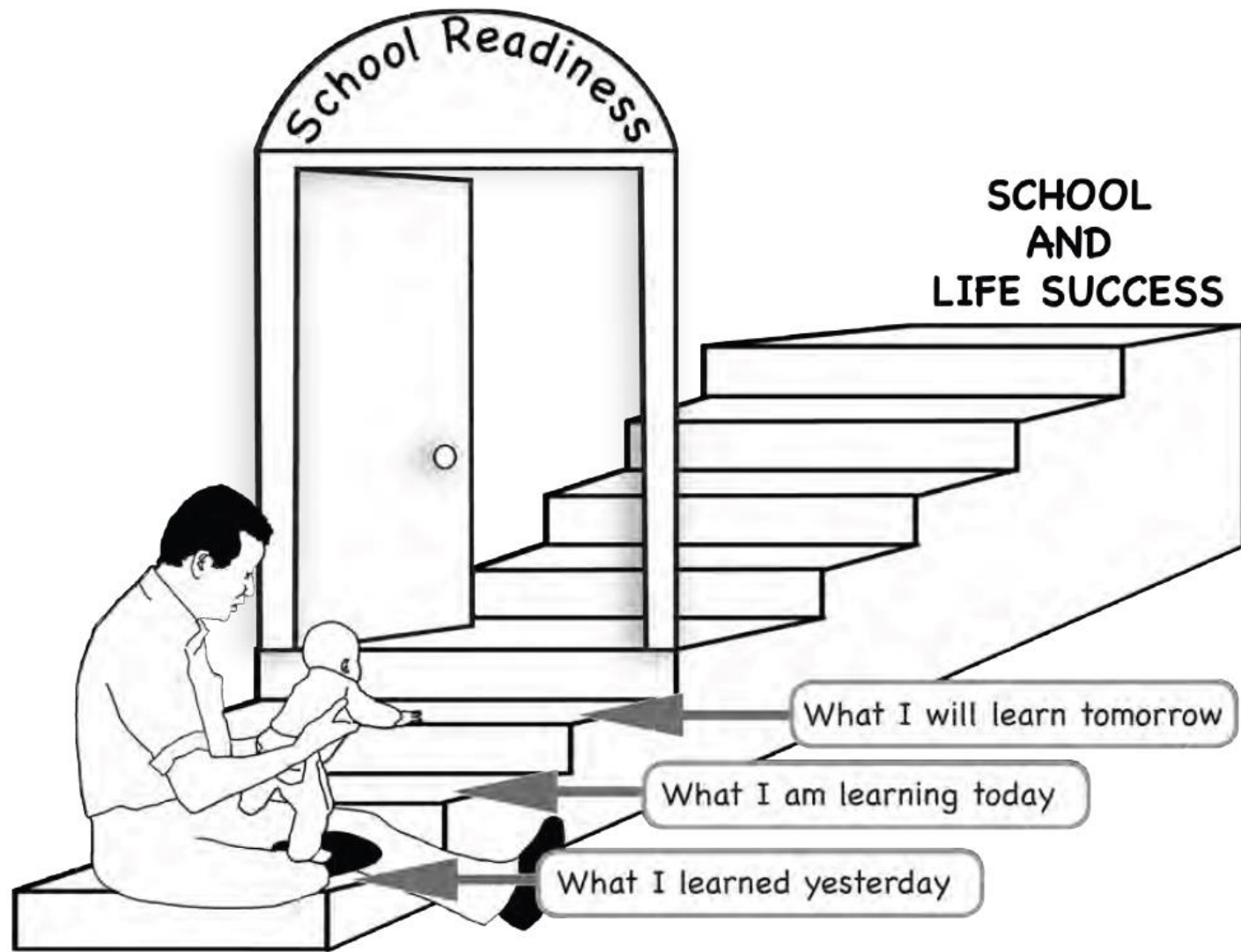


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Early Head Start Programs



1. Promotion of physical, language, cognitive, and social-emotional development of infants and toddlers.
2. Assistance to families' own personal goals and achieving self-sufficiency across a variety of domains such as housing, continued education, and financial security.
3. Connections to local community resources necessary to ensure a comprehensive, integrated array of services and support for children and families.



Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework

	Central Domains				
	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Literacy	Cognition	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development
Infant / Toddler Domains	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Communication	Cognition	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development
Preschooler Domains	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Communication	Mathematics Development	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development
			Literacy	Scientific Reasoning	



Early Head Start Program Options



Center-Based Services

- Education and child development services in a classroom setting.
- Teachers conduct a minimum of 2 home visits and 2 parent-teacher conferences per program year.
- Facilities must meet state, tribal, or local licensing requirements.

Early Head Start: Service Duration

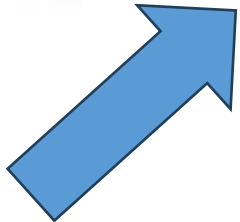
- 1,380 annual hours of planned class operations for all enrolled children.
- Designed to meet the needs of families.
- May align the center-based program during the school year with its public school and provide regular home-based services during the summer break



EHS Program Options: Center Based Classrooms

Table to §1302.21(b) – Center-based group size

4 and 5 year olds	No more than 20 children enrolled in any class. No more than 17 children enrolled in any double session class.
3 year olds	No more than 17 children enrolled in any class. No more than 15 children enrolled in any double session class.
Under 3 years old	No more than 8 or 9 children enrolled in any class, depending on the number of teachers.



Group Activity-Creating Mixed-Age EHS Classrooms

Discussion Questions

- What are some challenges and advantages of having infants and toddlers in the same classroom?
- How can you ensure the safety and well-being of all children in a mixed-age classroom?
- How can you support the individual needs and developmental stages of each child?



A Center Based Early Head Start classroom must have at least how much space per child for the indoor environment?



- 35 square feet of usable indoor space per child available for the care and use of children.
 - This does not include bathrooms, halls, kitchens, staff rooms, and storage places.
- A program that operates two or more groups within an area must ensure clearly defined, safe divisions to separate groups.
- **Outdoor Space-** Minimum 75 square feet of usable outdoor play space per child.

EHS Program Options: Center Based Classrooms



- Square footage requirements
- Teaching and learning environments
- Group socialization
- Safety practices for facilities, equipment, and materials

Designing Classroom and Socialization Environments for Infants & Toddlers



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EHS Program Options: Center Based Classrooms



- Any group comments/questions about EHS center-based?
- Prepare to share back in full discussion

Home-based Services

- Weekly home visits to each enrolled child and family.
- Home Visitor provides child-focused visits that promote the parents' ability to support their child's development.
- Socializations twice per month for parent and child to come together as a group for learning, social activity, and discussion.



EHS Program Options: Home-Based Services

A program that implements a home-based option must maintain an average caseload of 10 to 12 families per home visitor with a maximum of 12 families for any individual home visitor.



DOMAIN ORGANIZATIONS					
CENTRAL DOMAINS					
	APPROACHES TO LEARNING	SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	LANGUAGE AND LITERACY	COGNITION	PERCEPTUAL, MOTOR, AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT
INFANT/TODDLER DOMAINS	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Communication	Cognition	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development
PRESCHOOLER DOMAINS	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Communication Literacy	Mathematics Development Scientific Reasoning	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development

EHS Program Options: Home-Based Services

- Provide home visits with the child's parents in the home.
- One home visit per week per family that lasts at least an hour and a half and provides a minimum of 46 visits per year.
- Monthly socializations in a classroom, community facility, or field trip.
- Makeup planned home visits or scheduled group socialization activities that were canceled by the program to the extent possible.
- Provide, at a minimum, 22 group socialization activities distributed over the course of the program year.
- Safety requirements for facilities used during socialization activities must meet the safety standards described in 1302.47(1) (ii)



EHS Program Options: Services to Pregnant Women & Expectant Families

- Use the Family Partnership Process to ensure individualized services for each family.
- Staff Professional Development
- Enrolling pregnant women
 - Number of the expected vacancies
 - Dates of the expected vacancies
- Continuity of services after pregnancy



EHS Staff Credentials & Requirements



- Center-based teachers who provide direct services to infants and toddler have:
 - A minimum of an infant Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA)...or comparable credential**;
 - Trained or have equivalent coursework in early childhood development with a focus on infant and toddler development.

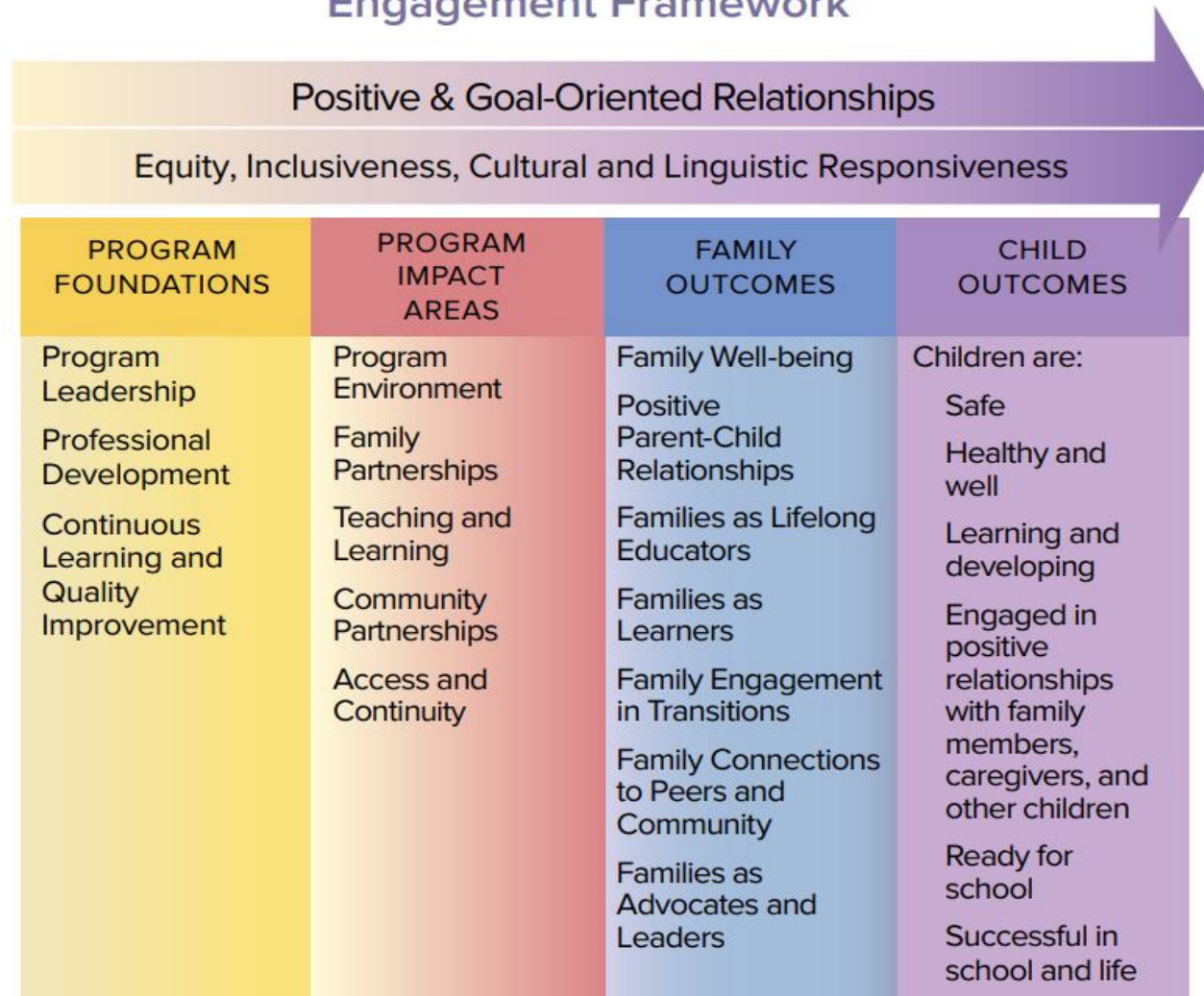
EHS Program Options: Home-Based



- Any group comments/questions about EHS home-based?
- Prepare to share back in full discussion

Parent, Family & Community Engagement

Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework



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Importance of Staff Training for EHS Staff



Staff Training and Professional Development

**What are the required number of training hours per year for program staff?
15 hours**

Staff Development

- Assess/analyze program outcomes and staff needs to inform the nature and scope of staff development.

Early Head Start Requirements

- a professional development plan for all full-time Early Head Start employees who provide direct services to children

Staff skills and competencies for EHS.

- explore resources that reflect evidence-based practices for staff working in ECE programs.

Licensing requirements and credentialing information

Ongoing Professional Development support



Infants, Toddlers and Twos need:

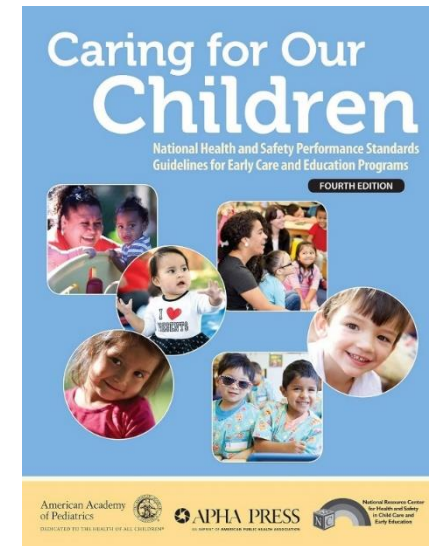
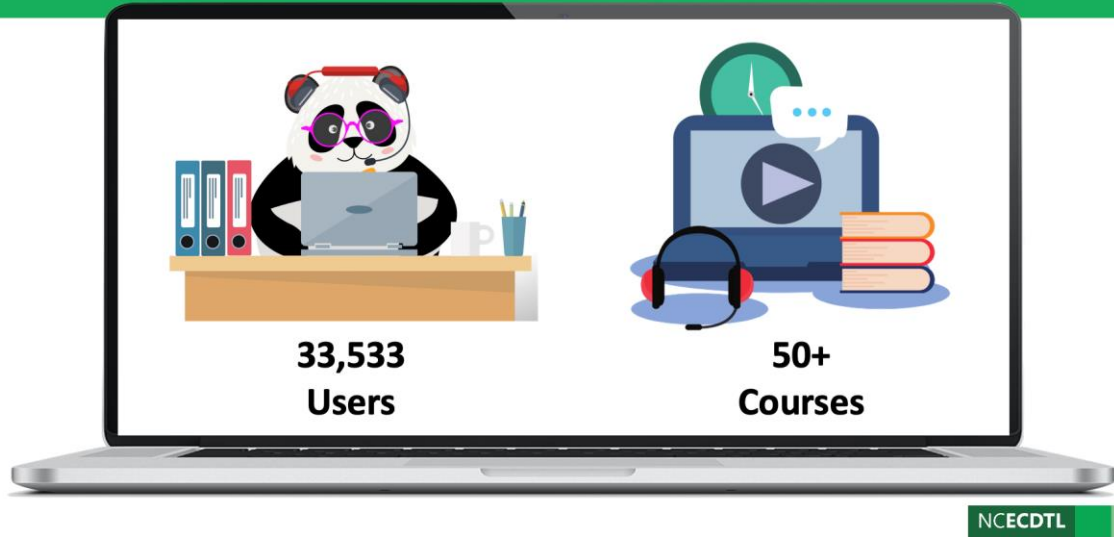
Strong, caring, and ongoing relationships

- Responsive adults
- Continuity of Care
- Sense of security
- Develop trust
- Regulations that promote nurturing practices
- Overall high-quality services



Resources

WHAT IS THE IPD?



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Overview of Early Head Start Programs

What are the benefits of EHS for children and families?

- Parents and children were assessed when the children were 14 months, 24 months, and 36 months old, in the spring prior to kindergarten entry, and again in the spring of the sixth year of formal schooling (fifth grade for most children).
- At the end of the program, 3-year-old Early Head Start (EHS) children performed significantly better on a range of cognitive, language, and social and emotional development measures than a randomly assigned control group.
- Prior to children entering kindergarten, positive impacts of EHS remained in areas of children's social and emotional development, parenting, and parent well-being.



- What did you learn today?
- What are your next steps?
- What can our TTA team do to support you?
- Select a person to share discussion point.



