

# Defining a Well-Functioning Early Childhood System

*A well-functioning early childhood system reaches families with the help they need, improves the coordination of services and supports, promotes a climate of support for early childhood, and increases parent engagement and equity.*

## 0 Foundations

Partners from multiple sectors in the community are building an aligned early childhood system to improve child and family well-being.

## 1 Reach

Young children and families receive services and supports to meet universal and identified needs.

## 2 Coordination

Sectors within the system are coordinated to provide seamless services, support quality improvement, and avoid duplication.

## 3 Commitment

The community makes early childhood a priority and acts to support children's health, learning, and well-being.

## 4 Equity

Parents are partners in creating a responsive and equitable early childhood system.

### 0.1 CORE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Partners from multiple sectors in the community are building an aligned early childhood system to improve child and family well-being.

### 0.2 INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SYSTEM-BUILDING

Level at which the early childhood system has the foundational elements needed to achieve impact.

### 1.1 EARLY PRENATAL CARE

Percentage of pregnant women receiving early prenatal care.

### 1.2 MATERNAL DEPRESSION

#### 1.2.1 SCREENING

Percentage of pregnant and postpartum women screened for depression.

#### 1.2.2 CONNECTION TO SERVICES

Percentage of pregnant and postpartum women connected to mental health services.

### 1.3 CHILD DEVELOPMENT

#### 1.3.1 SCREENING

Percentage of young children who have received a standardized developmental screening.

#### 1.3.2 CONNECTION TO SERVICES

Percentage of young children with identified concerns who are connected to services.

#### 1.3.3 EARLY IDENTIFICATION

Percentage of children needing selected special education services in kindergarten who were not identified and connected to services prior to kindergarten.

### 1.4 EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Percentage of infants, toddlers, and preschool age children with access to early childhood care and education services.

### 1.5 HOME VISITING

Percentage of families with young children with access to home visiting services.

### 2.1 FAMILY ASSESSMENT

Level at which service providers understand the full range of family strengths and needs.

### 2.2 SYSTEM NAVIGATION

Level at which the system helps connect families to the services and supports they need.

### 2.3 WORKING TOGETHER

Level at which the sectors work together when multiple service providers are involved with the same family.

### 2.4 USING DATA

Level at which system stakeholders use data to support coordination, planning, and quality improvement at the program and system levels

### 2.5 CAPACITY BUILDING

Level at which the system supports professional development and organizational capacity building.

### 3.1 PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING

Level at which early childhood systems effectively engage in efforts to increase public understanding of the importance of early childhood and the public's role in supporting children and families.

### 3.2 LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Level at which community leadership is engaged in supporting children and families.

### 3.3 POLICY CHANGE

Level at which communities identify, advocate for, and achieve policy changes that improve conditions for young children and their families.

### 4.1 PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Level at which parents are engaged as partners and leaders in the early childhood system.

### 4.2 ADVANCING EQUITY

Level at which the early childhood system uses anti-racist strategies to advance equity so that every child can reach their full potential.

Download individual system performance measures or the full Early Childhood System Performance Assessment Toolkit here: [CSSP.org/our-work/projects/shared-results-outcomes-metrics/](https://www.cssp.org/our-work/projects/shared-results-outcomes-metrics/)