Measuring Outcomes Related to Systems-Level Collaboration

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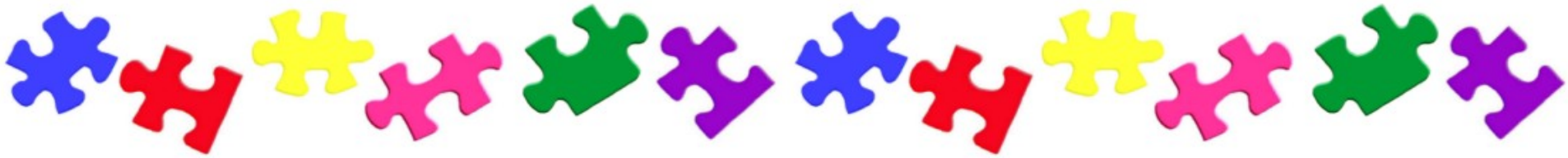
CHILD & FAMILY POLICY CENTER

READY 4 K

Build
Strong Foundations For Our Youngest Children

Outline of Presentation

- Child Care in a Systems Framework
- A Systems Evaluation Framework
- The Framework and Early Childhood
- Applying the Framework in Minnesota -- Ready 4 K
- Discussion



A Systemic Framework

System: Set of interrelated components aligned and working together to achieve a common goal which cannot be achieved without that alignment

Tightly coupled system – where all components operate under a single authority and for a single primary goal

Loosely coupled system – where components operate under independent authorities and have independent objectives as well as collective goals

Early Childhood Systems Framework

Common goal is children's health and readiness for success in school:

- **Early care and education component** has specific supervision and cognitive development objectives
- Health component has specific health objectives
- Mental health component has specific behavioral and mental health objectives
- Family support component has specific economic security and safety objectives
- Parenting education component has specific nurturing family objectives

Taking Action in a Loosely Coupled System to Reach Goals

Requires **context** of agreement on need to build system

Requires development of **components** to achieve their own objectives well

Requires development of **connections** across components to align work and achieve overall goals

Requires development of **infrastructure** to govern and support change

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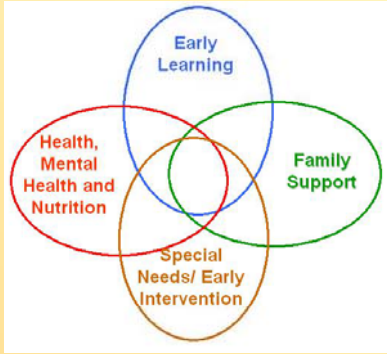
Requires being **strategic and opportunistic** to take action where it is possible and advances work (and knowing when actions are moving things forward and what they are tangential)

Early Childhood Systems Framework - Components

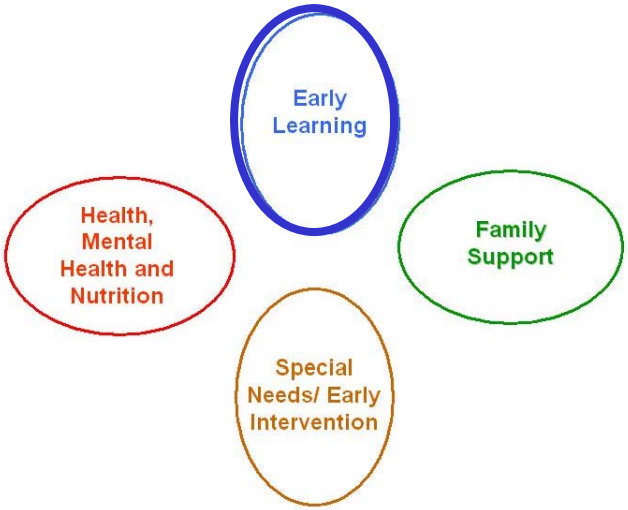
ECCS/Thrive	Systems Working Group / Build
Access to Health Care and Medical Homes	Health, Mental Health, and Nutrition
Social and Emotional Development and Mental Health	Special Needs/Early Intervention
Early Care and Education Services	**Early Learning**
Parenting Education and Family Support	Family Support

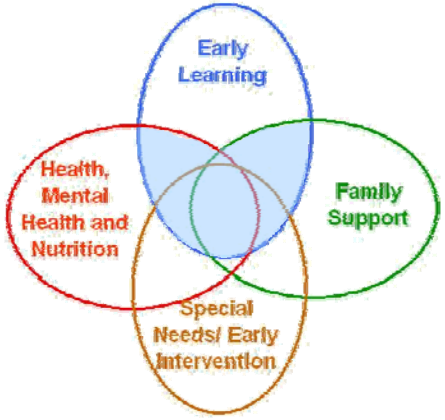


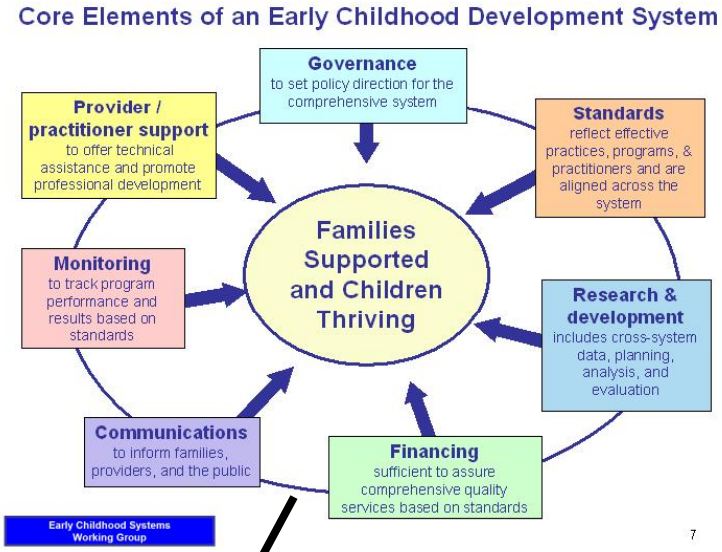
Early Childhood System Framework - Infrastructure

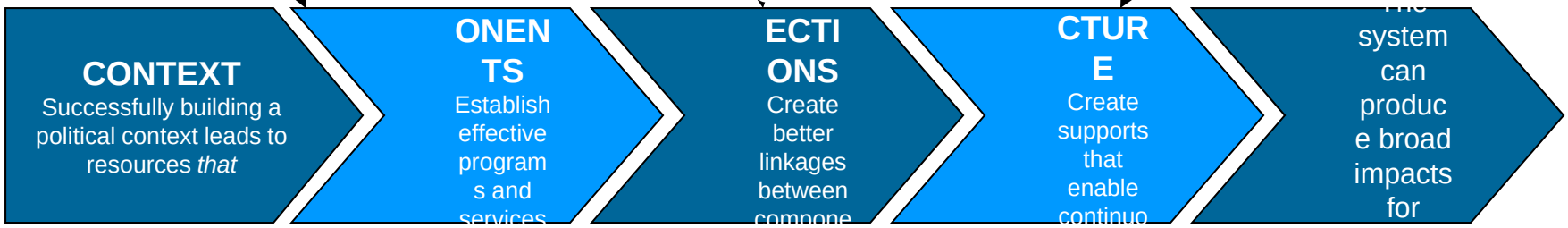
ECCS/Thrive		Systems Working Group/Build
Governance and Leadership	⟷	Governance
Standards and Infrastructure	⟷	Standards
Planning, Research and Development	⟷	Research and Development
Financing and Budgets	⟷	Financing
Communications and Public Will	⟷	Communications
Monitoring, Evaluation, and Accountability	⟷	Monitoring
Provider and Practitioner Support	⟷	Provider and Practitioner Support

Evaluation and Self-Assessment Framework

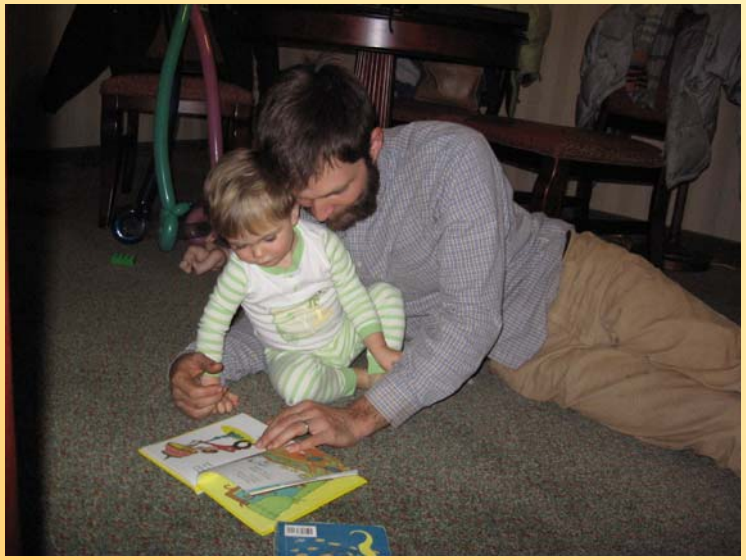








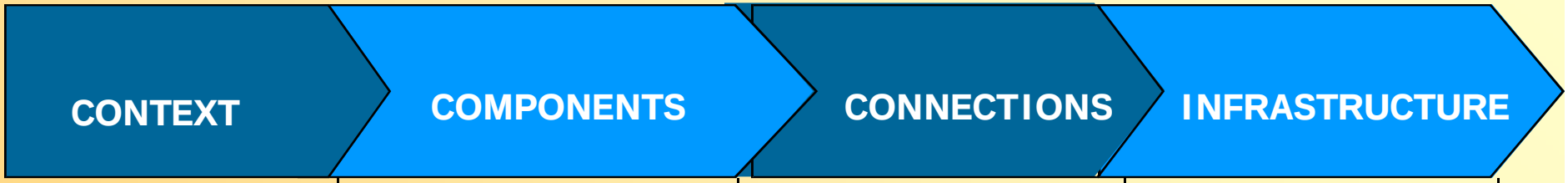
Ready 4 K Goal: Families Supported and Children Thriving



- **Early Learning**
- **Family Support**

- **Health / Mental Health**
- **Special Needs / Early Intervention**

Early Childhood Planning and Evaluation



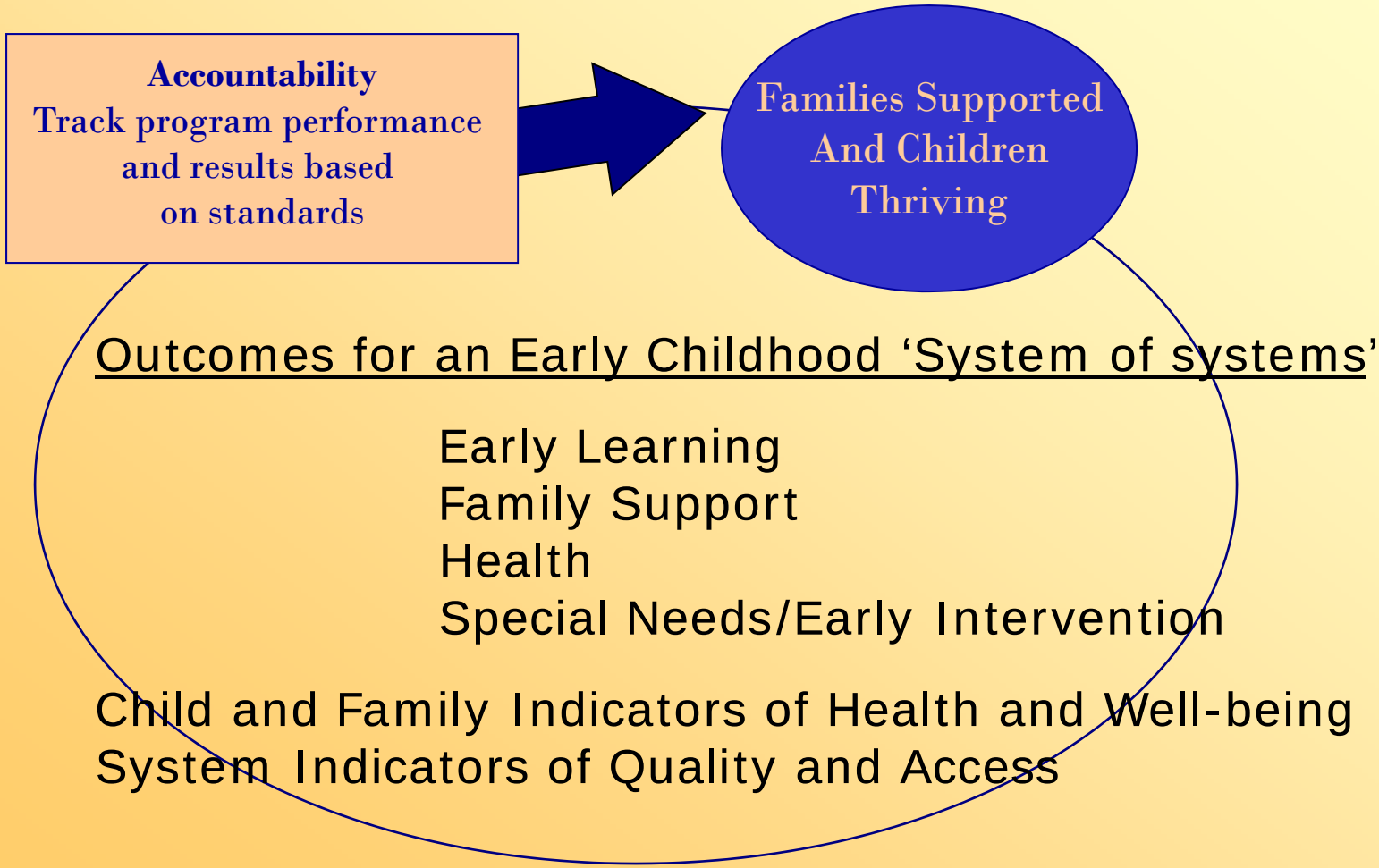
- Recognition of system need
- Shared vision
- Leadership
- Public engagement
- Media coverage
- Public will
- Political will
- Policy changes

- Expanded programs (e.g., universal preschool, early intervention)
- New programs (e.g., infant mental health services, home visiting programs)
- Better access (e.g., expanded SCHIP or Medicaid eligibility)
- Higher-quality Programs (e.g., child care)

- Shared goals
- MOUs across systems
- Shared standards
- Cross-system training
- Shared competencies or skill standards
- Shared data systems
- Referrals/follow ups
- Seamless Services

- Cross-system governance structure
- Less categorical and more flexible funding
- Leveraged use of funding
- System-wide use of data
- Practitioner supports
- Quality Rating System
- Professional Development System

Early Childhood Outcomes and Indicators Workgroup: Focus on Accountability



State and Local Communities Can Use Outcomes and Indicators to:

- Let communities know how their children and families are doing to get prepared for school
- Describe whether families can access quality services
- Measure progress
- Improve programs
- Inform policymakers
- Get more resources
- Monitor the impact of investments

Evaluation and Self-Assessment: Focusing on Key Questions

CONTEXT	COMPONENTS	CONNECTIONS	INFRASTRUCTURE	SCALE
1. Has the initiative changed the political environment through its activities?	1. Did the initiative design and implement system components as intended?	1. Did the initiative design and implement connections and linkages as intended?	1. Did the initiative establish infrastructure or supports that are consistent with its objectives?	1. Did the initiative enable system scale up with quality and fidelity?
2. Has the initiative produced changes to investment, policy, or practice that will enable changes in components, connections, infrastructure, or scale?	2. Did the components produce their intended impacts for beneficiaries?	2. Did the connections and linkages produce their intended impacts?	2. Did the infrastructure or supports achieve their objectives for effectiveness, sustainability, and quality?	2. Did scale up result in broad impacts for beneficiaries at a system-wide population level?

Early Care and Education: Key Questions

CONTEXT	COMPONENTS	CONNECTIONS	INFRASTRUCTURE	SCALE
1. Did the effort increase public and political support for affordable, quality early care and education? 2. Did the increased support produce new public or private investments to strengthen early care and education?	1. Were early care and education programs improved in quality, affordability, and/or availability? 2. Did this produce better results for the children and families served?	1. Were early care and education programs better connected to health, family support, and other services, including more appropriate referrals and follow-up services? 2. Did these produce better results for the children and families served?	1. Was a systemic approach developed to support quality improvement and professional development? 2. Did this produce greater accountability and systems quality?	1. Did all children receive early care and education designed to meet their needs? 2. Did this produce statewide improvements in children's education and development?

For More Information:

Child & Family Policy Center
www.cfpciowa.org

Ready 4 K
www.ready4k.org

The Build Initiative
www.buildinitiative.org