



Erikson Institute

# Quality in Home-Based Child Care: A Conceptual Framework

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# Appreciation

- / **This presentation is based on work from the Home-based Child Care Supply and Quality (HBCCSQ) project funded by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE)**
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- / **The content of this workshop does not necessarily represent the official views or policies of OPRE, ACF, or HHS**

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# HBCCSQ project goals and activities



Identify what quality looks like in HBCC and what is included in existing measures of quality



Develop a research agenda and study designs on HBCC



Analyze data to answer key questions about the HBCC workforce



Develop new tools to support quality in HBCC

# What is home-based child care?

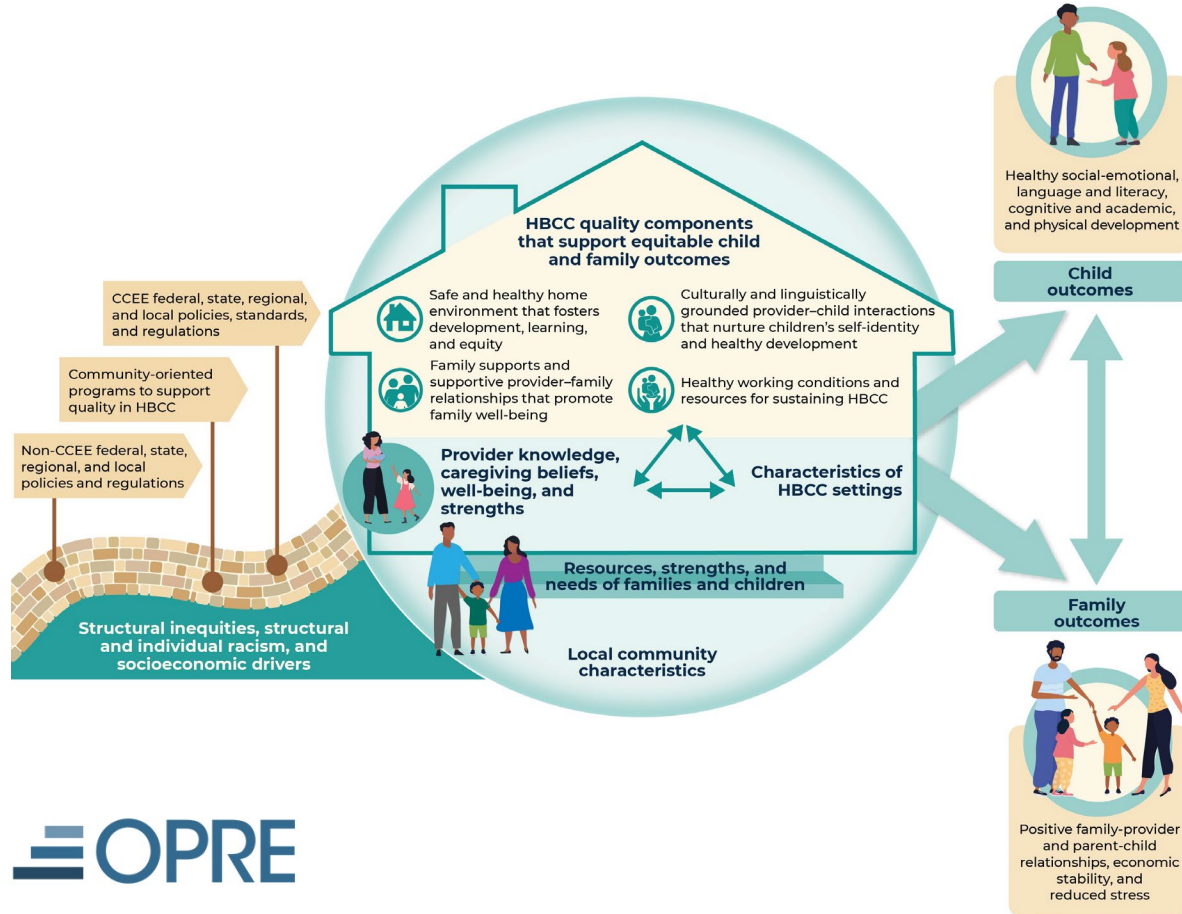
**/ Home based child care is nonparental child care offered in a provider's or child's home.**

- licensed, certified, or registered family child care
- license-exempt, unregulated family, friend, and neighbor care
- relatives and nonrelatives
- paid and unpaid caregivers

# Overview of conceptual framework

- / **Primarily informed by a review of selected literature including CCEE research on HBCC and centers and related research on families and parenting**
- / **Defines quality as features of child care and the care setting that may be associated with positive child, family, and/or provider outcomes**
- / **Uses a strengths-based approach**
- / **Uses an equity approach**
- / **Identifies quality features that (1) *are similar to other CCEE settings* and (2) *may look different or be more common in HBCC***

# Conceptual framework for quality in HBCC





# **Features that may look different or be more common in HBCC**

# Safe and healthy home environment

- / **Predictable routines**
- / **Opportunities for informal learning**
- / **Opportunities for interactions with community and community resources**



# Culturally and linguistically grounded provider-child interactions

- / **Support continuity of care**
- / **Support for children's positive peer interactions and pro-social skills, including mixed-age peer interactions**
- / **Support for positive racial, ethnic, and self-identity**
- / **Engagement in language interactions with children and support for language, including support for children's first language and/or bilingualism**

# Family supports and supportive provider-family relationships

- / **Cultural responsiveness to and connectedness with families**
- / **Flexible schedules and logistical supports within clearly communicated boundaries (including health with nonchild-care tasks)**
  - May include different weekly schedules, flexible drop-off and pickup times, and flexible payment
  - May include provision of nonchild-care supports, such as help with meal preparation

# Healthy working conditions and resources for sustaining HBCC

- / **Social connectedness**
- / **Management of work-life balance**
- / **Management of finances or business**
- / **Access to financial or business supports**

# Future Research

- ✓ **Understand how these features may influence, support, or directly contribute to outcomes for children and families**
- ✓ **Understand if and how HBCC quality features may buffer inequities faced by children and families from communities of color who may experience multiple forms of marginalization (e.g., racial and economic inequities)**
- ✓ **Consider how quality improvement initiatives and rating standards can better reflect and support HBCC**

# Discussion questions

- / **How might CCEE initiatives take into account HBCC providers' sources of knowledge and strengths in nurturing children's development and growth throughout the day?**
- / **What strategies could initiatives use to support providers who care for mixed-age groups of children?**
- / **How do initiatives recognize and support providers' strengths and assets as well as their culturally and linguistically sustaining interactions with children?**
- / **How can programs help providers develop supportive relationships with families of children in care?**
- / **What strategies could help providers balance flexible schedules and payments, as well as nonchild-care tasks, while also attending to their own physical, psychological, and emotional well-being?**

# Resources

Visit the HBCCSQ project webpage for more information and access to reports and briefs: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/project/home-based-child-care-supply-and-quality-2019-2024>

- **Conceptual Framework for Quality in Home-Based Child Care (forthcoming)**
- **Understanding Features of Quality in Home-Based Child Care That Are Often Overlooked in Research and Policy**
- **Quality in Home-Based Child Care: A Review of Selected Literature**