

STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT ALL YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Collaborative Improvement & Innovation Network

WHY DO WE NEED STRONGER EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS?



Research clearly demonstrates responsive, nurturing relationships in safe, engaging environments throughout the earliest years of life (starting prenatally) are at the foundation of healthy development and lifelong success. An early childhood comprehensive system is defined as an organized, purposeful partnership of interrelated and interdependent agencies/organizations, representing health, mental health, social services, families and caregivers, and early childhood education, collaboratively coordinating effective systems of care for children from birth to kindergarten entry.



WHAT IS THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS COLLABORATIVE IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION NETWORK?



The Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (CoIIN) is a strategic effort to identify ways to accelerate improvement in early childhood systems, resources and coordination across sectors so that all children can achieve optimal and equitable early childhood developmental health outcomes. In partnership with the ECCS CoIIN Coordinating Center, 12 states and 28 local communities work to both improve systems, processes, structures and norms and generate innovative solutions. The ECCS CoIIN initiative is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and informs and contributes to this national effort, as well as advances state and local early childhood system coordination efforts.



WHAT APPROACHES ARE BEING UTILIZED IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS COLLABORATIVE IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION NETWORK TO STRENGTHEN EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS?

Develop and maintain partnerships and network

How: Expand the breadth of partners working to advance collaboration, foster effective collaborations, and promote contribution and impact towards a common vision of optimizing child developmental health

Provide backbone support & mechanisms for connections and communication between State and community

How: Provide state-level support to community leaders and organizations to innovate, test and spread improvements resulting in a more efficient and coordinated system that supports optimal child development

Implement capacity building efforts to promote and support early childhood

How: Use national resources, like the CDC's milestone tracker mobile app, to engage families and communities about child developmental health, the importance of developmental screening, and ways to support their optimal development

Create early childhood systems infrastructure, improvement and sustainability

How: Improve processes between, and across, early childhood providers to allow for seamless connection to services and optimal coordination that support the healthy development of all children

Advance policies and mobilize funding to sustain systems improvement

How: Work with community partners to identify the trainings and resources needed to develop and implement policies that will solidify, institutionalize and formalize responsive early childhood systems

Strengthen family partnerships

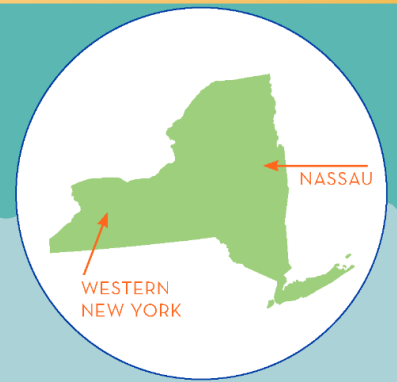
How: Involve family members from the start as experts and equal partners in co-design processes, programs and services that support and promote child developmental health.



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EARLY CHILDHOOD IN NEW YORK



CAPACITY-BUILDING EFFORTS

Promoting & Supporting Early Childhood Development

STATE LEVEL

- The influence of ECCS has expanded to the New York State Preschool Development Birth Through Five (NYSB5) grant through integration of a developmental screening pilot included in grant deliverables. This pilot will promote comprehensive screening, referral, and follow up in key areas at early childhood care and education settings to ensure that children and families are developmentally on track and healthy from birth to age five. This pilot is based on the learnings and processes from ECCS and other NY communities with developmental screening initiatives.

COMMUNITY LEVEL - NASSAU

- Implemented [Help Me Grow](#), which promotes development and provides free developmental and social emotional screening, outreach to WIC sites regarding developmental promotion, screening, and connection to services, as well as “Books, Balls, & Blocks” screening events at local libraries.
- Docs for Tots, ECCS Nassau Lead, also leads the **NYActs team**, comprised of representatives from state-level early childhood initiatives, to coordinate statewide efforts around **developmental promotion and early identification during COVID-19** utilizing existing activities, resources, and materials. The NYActs work is funded by the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as part of the CDC’s [Learn the Signs, Act Early](#) Campaign.

FAMILY LEADERSHIP



COMMUNITY LEVEL - NASSAU

- Established a family advisory group. Strategized outreach with the goal of reaching families to provide developmental promotion and screening materials

COMMUNITY LEVEL - WESTERN NEW YORK

- Family representatives on improvement team
- Pediatric practices identifying family partners



POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

COMMUNITY LEVEL - NASSAU

- Partner Collaboration Plans established with Help Me Grow – Long Island and community partners to train sites that serve young children to integrate developmental and social emotional screening into the work they do with families using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire.

COMMUNITY LEVEL - WESTERN NEW YORK

- Implemented a universal referral form in Erie and Niagara Counties
- Implemented policy changes to ensure follow up by working with service coordinators in early intervention and working with social workers at pediatric practices. This organizational policy change has impacted follow up processes at the county early intervention level and with the local health care system.



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