Professional Development Strategies, Systems, and Measures

Professional Development Strategies that Support Outcomes for Families

Diane Paulsell

Child Care Policy Research Consortium
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Why Focus on Family Outcomes?

- Increase access and choice for low-income families
- Support parents’ employment and ability to balance work and family
- Provide parenting support and child development information
- Increase congruence between home and child care
What Requirements Are in Place to Support Family Outcomes?

- Quality Rating Systems
- Accreditation
  - NAEYC
  - NAFCC
  - NAA
- Head Start Program Performance Standards
What Supports Do Child Care Providers Offer to Families?

- Help with the subsidy system
- Parenting advice and child development information
- Referrals to other services and resources
- Flexible hours and logistical support
- Material goods for children and families
What Professional Development Strategies Are Available?

Professional Development Topics

- Communication with parents and relationship building
- Cultural competence in working with families
- Developing family partnerships
- Family support strategies
- Community resources

Resources

- Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center
- National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center
  [http://www.nectac.org/topics/families/families.asp](http://www.nectac.org/topics/families/families.asp)
- State systems
Questions and Next Steps

- Should our conceptualization of quality include support for parents?
  - How comprehensive should child care be, especially for low-income families?

- What are child care providers already doing for families?
  - How does this differ across settings? Ages of children?
  - What are the implications for parent choice?
  - What are the benefits and burdens of providing support for parents from providers’ perspectives?
Questions and Next Steps

- What training, support, and resources do child care providers need to support parents?
  - What are the options for delivering this support? Subsidy system? QRIS systems?
- What partnerships might facilitate increased parent support?
- What outcomes would be expected for parents, children, providers?