

Building Pathways and Partnerships to Support Children's Development

Discussant Comments

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SRCD and Child Trends

Guiding Principles

- ❖ Child Focused
- ❖ Family Friendly
- ❖ Fair to Providers

How are each of the principles illustrated by the three programs?

Child Focused

- Community Connections (Illinois)
 - Children participated in pre-k who would not be able to otherwise
 - Teachers brought materials and activities to home-based providers
 - Infants and toddlers had time with better ratios
- STARS for KIDS NOW (KY)
 - Recommended consideration of new standards with child focus that would address
 - curriculum
 - child assessment
 - screening and referral
 - provisions for children with special needs
- School Readiness Connections (MN)
 - Training on Work Sampling System
 - how to implement
 - how to use information to guide instruction

Family Friendly

- Community Connections (Illinois)
 - Respected nonstandard work schedules of families; choice of home-based care
 - Viewed care as collaboration of parents, home-based providers and preschool teachers, with activities including all
- STARS for KIDS NOW (KY)
 - Considered both the percentage of parents who recognized STARS for KIDS NOW (17%) and percentage of parents who indicated that they would use a STARS rating to select a provider (2/3).
 - Used this information to recommend targeting outreach to parents in the process of making ECE decisions
- School Readiness Connections (MN)
 - Once eligible, families maintained eligibility for one year
 - Provided for continuity of care as parents moved in an out of employment

Fair to Providers

- Community Connections (Illinois)
 - Home-based providers did not lose subsidy payments when children participated in preschool
 - Had input to connect children's activities with those in preschool
- STARS for KIDS NOW (KY)
 - Identified that providers participating in QRIS may be reaching higher quality indicators than block system can recognize. Considered ways to take this into account in ratings
- School Readiness Connections (MN)
 - Included providers across types of care
 - Quality improvement supports were provided
 - All providers attained levels 3 and 4 in QRIS

Questions

- Are all three principles present in the programs in your state and/or that you are researching? In what ways?
- Are the three principles present to the same extent? Would you say one more salient or emphasized than others? One is less salient or missing?
- Are you thinking about new approaches that would introduce or strengthen one of the principles?