

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Family and Provider/Teacher Relationship Quality (FPTRQ) project, sponsored by the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Head Start (OHS) and Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE), was a four-year effort to develop measures of the quality of family and provider/teacher relationships in early care and education (ECE) settings for children from birth through age five. The measures were developed by Westat and Child Trends with additional support from a group of experts who provided guidance and advice.

The following activities have been conducted to develop the Family and Provider/Teacher Relationship Quality (FPTRQ) measures and to ensure that they capture information necessary for assessing the quality of family and provider/teacher relationships.

- Conducted an extensive review of the conceptual and empirical literature on family and provider/teacher relationships,
- Developed a conceptual model,
- Consulted with experts,
- Conducted focus groups with parents and providers/teachers in Head Start/Early Head Start, center-based, and family child care programs,
- Reviewed existing family and provider/teacher relationship measures,
- Developed measure items through an iterative process which included multiple rounds of testing through cognitive interviews,
- Conducted cognitive interviews with parents, providers/teachers, family services staff, and directors, and
- Conducted pilot and field studies.

The following FPTRQ measures were developed.

- The **director measure** asks respondents general questions about the ECE environment, the children enrolled in the program, and how the program supports family and provider/teacher relationships.
- The **provider/teacher measure** asks respondents general questions about how they work with parents of children in their care.
- The **parent measure** asks parents general questions about how they work with their child's lead provider or teacher (not aides or assistant teachers).
- The **family services staff measure** asks respondents questions about how they work with all parents of children in Head Start/Early Head Start programs.
- The **family services staff parent measure** asks parents questions about how they work with their family services staff in Head Start/Early Head Start programs. Both the family services staff and family services staff parent measures were not piloted nor included in the field study, but both have gone through three rounds of cognitive testing.

The FPTRQ measures include multiple subscales under the four broader constructs of Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices, and Environmental Features. These measures can be used by a variety of ECE stakeholders who share an interest in improving provider/teacher relationships with families and family engagement in ECE programs.