GOALS

Children have high quality early learning supports and environments and comprehensive health care.

Families have meaningful community and parenting supports.

Early childhood professionals have the knowledge, skills, and supports to work effectively with and on behalf of families and children.

all children are valued, healthy, and thriving

outcomes

ACCESS OUTCOMES

EARLY LEARNING
- Increased availability of formal education and professional development opportunities for early childhood professionals related to early learning standards.
- Increased access to high quality early learning, birth through third grade.

FAMILY SUPPORT AND PARENT EDUCATION
- Increased availability and family use of high quality parenting/child development information, services, and supports.
- Increased parent engagement and leadership at program, community, and policy levels.

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND MENTAL HEALTH
- Increased availability and use of high quality social, emotional, and mental health training and support.
- Increased number of supportive and nurturing environments that promote children's healthy social and emotional development.

HEALTH
- Increased access to preventive oral and medical health care.
- Increased number of children covered by consistent health insurance.

QUALITY OUTCOMES

EARLY LEARNING
- Increased number of children meeting developmental milestones to promote school readiness.
- Increased number of programs that are accredited and/or quality rated.
- Increased number of schools that have leadership and educational environments that support young children's success.
- Increased availability of community resources and support networks for early childhood practitioners, professionals, and programs.

FAMILY SUPPORT AND PARENT EDUCATION
- Increased number of children who live in safe, stable, and supportive families.
- Improved family and community knowledge and skills to support children's health and development.
- Increased family ability to identify and select high quality early childhood services and supports.

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND MENTAL HEALTH
- Increased number of environments, including early learning settings, providing early identification and mental health consultation.
- Improved knowledge and practice of nurturing behaviors among families and early childhood professionals.

HEALTH
- Increased number of children who receive a Medical Home approach.
- Increased number of children who are fully immunized.
- Increased knowledge of the importance of health and wellness (including nutrition, physical activity, medical, oral, and mental health).

EQUITY OUTCOMES

EARLY LEARNING
- Increased number of children with special needs who receive consistent early learning services and supports.
- Decreased gaps in school readiness and academic achievement between populations of children.

FAMILY SUPPORT AND PARENT EDUCATION
- Increased availability and use of family literacy services and supports.
- Increased availability of resources and supports, including financial and legal, to promote family self-sufficiency.
- Increased coordination of services and supports for families and children who are at-risk or have special needs.

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND MENTAL HEALTH
- Increased number of mental health services for children with persistent, serious challenging behaviors.
- Decreased number of out-of-home placements of children.

HEALTH
- Increased percentage of primary care physicians and dentists who accept Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus.
- Increased percentage of women giving birth with timely, appropriate prenatal care.
- Decreased number of underinsured children.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

EARLY LEARNING
- Develop and support use of early learning standards by families, programs, and professionals.
- Evaluate and recognize high quality programs with a comprehensive rating and reimbursement system.
- Develop, promote, and support high quality professional development and formal education for adults who work with young children.
- Monitor children's learning and development through screening and on-going assessments.
- Improve financial sustainability and governing efficiency of early learning programs and infrastructure.

FAMILY SUPPORT AND PARENT EDUCATION
- Strengthen coordinated efforts of public and private stakeholders to meet the needs of children and families.
- Strengthen and support family leadership through effective training models.
- Provide tools and information to families to strengthen their own engagement and involvement in their children's lives.
- Provide information to families to facilitate connection to services and supports.

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND MENTAL HEALTH
- Promote caregivers' knowledge of the social, emotional, and mental health of young children.
- Provide early childhood professionals with effective practices that promote children's social-emotional development and mental health.
- Strengthen and support community-based mental health services that identify and serve young children.

HEALTH
- Enroll more children in health insurance programs.
- Promote and support use of standards for a Medical Home approach (including medical, oral, and mental health, as well as developmental, vision, and hearing screening and services).
- Strengthen coordinated efforts of public and private stakeholders to support health and wellness.

FOUNDATIONS

Build and Support Partnerships

Fund and Invest

Change Policy

Build Public Engagement

Share Accountability

Generate Education and Leadership Opportunities

EARLY CHILDHOOD COLORADO PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK THAT:

- Recognizes the needs of the whole child and family.
- Communicates the vision for comprehensive early childhood work.
- Focuses on specific measurable outcomes.
- Guides, organizes, and focuses the actions and accountability of public and private stakeholders.

THIS WORK IS GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- Be child-focused and family-centered.
- Recognize and respond to variations in cultures, languages, and abilities.
- Use data to inform decisions.
- Build on strengths of communities and families.
- Focus on children from birth to age 8.
- Promote partnerships.
- Act at state, local, and statewide levels.

For more information contact Early.ChildhoodTeam@capitol.state.co.us.

Early Childhood Colorado Framework

A COLLECTIVE VISION ON BEHALF OF COLORADO'S YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.