

Sierra Nevada Children's Services (SNCS)
The Partnership Project
Supporting Early Care and Education
Orientation

Welcome: Please sign in, take a binder, and make a name tag.

RATIONALE FOR THE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

California Early Learning Quality Improvement System (CAEL QIS)

On November 9, 2009 Governor Schwarzenegger issued an executive order (S-23-09) to establish an advisory council on Early Education and Care. This is the first step in making California eligible for the federal funds that are available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support improvements in early care and learning. The advisory Committee is developing a policy and implementation plan for a QRIS that will include a rating structure, as well as incentives and technical assistance across a broad range of early care and learning programs to improve quality.

The purpose of the CAEL QIS is to improve the outcomes for children and to promote school readiness by improving the quality of early care and learning for children birth to age 5. This quality rating scale will be aligned with a payment scale to promote increased quality.

The above is cited from the 2009 Interim Report. The report and other information are accessible through the CDE website at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/sb1629committee.asp>.

California Infant/Toddler and Preschool Learning and Development Foundations

These publications were developed by the California Department of Education, Child Development Division, in a comprehensive effort to strengthen young children's learning through high-quality early care and education. The domains covered in these foundations are: Social-emotional Development, Cognitive Development, Language and Literacy Development, Perceptual and Motor Development, and Mathematics.

Video Presentation on California Infant/Toddler and Preschool Learning and Development Foundations

State of California Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children (<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/>)

We will utilize this website as a foundation for understanding developmental milestones for children, their behaviors and how to set the stage for creating safe and trusting relationships with children. We will emphasize a developmentally appropriate curriculum and learning environment.

Special information that SNCS will include:

Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning

- Non-Violence in the Lives of Children Project
- Special Needs and Inclusion
- Eco-friendly environments and activities
- Developing supportive parent relationships
- Professionalism
- Applicable information provided by professionals who have worked in early care and education
- How to link what you learn to requirements
- Mandated reporting
- Violence prevention
- Second Step program

How will SNCS help you?

SNCS Early Care and Education team has developed the Partnership Project to provide ongoing free support and guidance as a means to increase the developmentally appropriate practices of your program.

OBJECTIVE 1: ECE programs in the SNCS service area will be strategically positioned to implement the State Quality Improvement plan.

OBJECTIVE 2: Actively engaged Parents and Early Educators will achieve higher levels of developmentally appropriate practices and will be able to define long-term positive academic outcomes for children.

OBJECTIVE 3: The intentions of the State Quality Improvement System are to correlate quality improvement with increased reimbursement rates. It is the objective of SNCS to position you for that business opportunity.

OBJECTIVE 4: SNCS will advocate for more funding to support and to continue quality child development improvements.

1.) ECERS/ITERS/ FCCERS

We will utilize the ECERS/ITERS/FCCERS environmental rating scale self-assessments as a pre and post guide to building an individualized foundation and measuring outcomes. If you have completed one in the last year we can use it to start.

2.) WORKSHOPS

Through a hands-on approach, we will provide Early Learning and Development Foundations workshops to address quality improvement in the following areas:

- Social Emotional Development
- Behavior Concerns
- Special Needs
- Professionalism-business improvements
- Language Development

- Cognitive Development
- Improving Relationships with Parents
- Perceptual and Motor Development

3.) DRDP- R

We will include ways to connect what you learn to observation tools such as the DRDP- R.

4.) SITE VISITS

Monthly site visits will solidify concepts through a “This is how developmentally appropriate practices can look within your program” approach. We will link this component to the Bucket of Books programs to make it easier for educators to meet with specialists.

5.) ACTIVITIES

Bi-weekly **PLAY and Learn**, (Parents/Educators Learning Activities Year Round) activities will be held in the SNCS Family Resource Center that will match the monthly Early Learning and Development workshops. They will be held on Tuesdays from 9:00am-11:00am.

PLAY and Learn activities will be held once a month on Wednesdays from 6:00pm-8:00pm for parents, which focus on promoting ways to engage and develop a greater understanding of how to plan activities which foster their child’s growth.

6.) COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Our intent is to support and inform our community partners so that we may advocate and provide additional quality improvement opportunities.

7.) PARENT COMPONENT

Through monthly workshops and PLAY and Learn activities we will help parents to understand what developmentally appropriate practice looks like, feels like and sounds like. We will support and encourage parents as they advocate and advise SNCS on quality improvement. At the same time, we are actively working with Early Care and Education programs to guide and enhance their communication and interactions with parents as a means to bridge the gap between home and the early care environment. With this support, it is our belief that parents will grow and thrive as active participants throughout their children’s academic years.

ACTIVITY EXAMPLE:

- Infant/Toddler video clip and activity
- Preschool video clip and activity
- Question and Answer Time
- Journal writing/information gathering