Early Childhood Colorado **Framework**

**A SHARED VISION**

For more information visit earlychildhoodframework.org

ADOPTED JULY 2008 | UPDATED JULY 2015

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**Core Principles**
The Early Childhood Colorado Framework is based on and guided by these principles:

- Whole child and family centered
- Prenatal through age eight
- Strengths-based
- Culturally relevant and responsive
- Outcomes focused
- Informed by evidence based and promising practices
- Cross-sector collaboration

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**Outcomes ▶ access, quality and equity**

**ACCESS**
- Family engagement and leadership opportunities exist within programs, schools and communities
- Services and supports promote the well-being and resiliency of parents and caregivers
- Family friendly policies and practices exist in the workplace
- Comprehensive health coverage and services are consistently utilized by pregnant women and children
- Integrated and preventive maternal and child physical, behavioral and oral health services are available
- All settings promote mental health and well-being through early identification, consultation and treatment
- Education, coaching and ongoing training exist for caregivers, teachers and other professionals
- Learning experiences and environments are high quality, developmentally appropriate and affordable

**QUALITY**
- Family knowledge and capacity support children’s healthy development and learning
- Families advocate for high quality comprehensive services and supports that lead to future success
- All health care providers, including mental health, deliver coordinated, family focused care
- Settings and practices promote strong relationships, social and emotional development, appropriate nutrition and physical activity
- Formal and informal care environments and education practices reach the highest levels of quality
- Adults understand and support children’s learning and development, including social and emotional
- All settings provide effective transitions across and within programs, schools and systems

**EQUITY**
- Education, employment, housing, financial and legal supports contribute to family economic security
- Families, including those with high needs, experience timely and coordinated services and supports
- Families have the ability to plan the number and timing of their children
- All environments are safe, free of toxins, have affordable foods and offer physical activity
- Children with special health, behavioral or developmental needs receive individualized services and supports
- All children are ready for school and achieving by 3rd grade regardless of ability, race, place, income, language and culture
- Children, including those with high needs, receive timely, comprehensive and affordable academic services and transition supports

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**Strategies for Action**

- Connect and Empower Families
- Build Community Capacity
- Implement Quality Standards
- Make Data Informed Decisions
- Develop and Retain the Workforce
- Support Consumer Affordability
- Advance Sustainable Business Practices
- Encourage Public Private Approaches
- Pursue Continuous Quality Improvement
- Ensure Coordinated Services
- Promote and Share Knowledge

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**Fundamentals**

Strong Partnerships
Sufficient Investments
Sound Policy
Robust Public Engagement
Shared Accountability
Effective Leadership
Relevant Education Opportunities

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**Results**

**ENVSIRONMENTS**
Environments that impact children are safe, stable and supportive

**RELATIONSHIPS**
Adults are knowledgeable, responsive and interact effectively

**COLORADO**
Localities and the state attain economic and social benefits by prioritizing children and families

**ACCESS**

**QUALITY**

**EQUITY**

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