



STARTING STRONG INSTITUTE

A program of the
Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence
and the University of Kentucky Human
Development Institute

INSTITUTE GOAL:

Promote family and early childhood partnerships that will:

- Improve child learning/outcomes
- Increase family involvement
- Improve program quality



INSTITUTE BASICS

- Teams from childcare settings
 - parent
 - director or lead teacher
- Three days of training
 - homework
- Project design
 - Improve program quality and child learning/development
 - Mini-grant
- Coaching for one year

Curriculum

- Day 1 – Family Involvement
- Day 2 – Child Development & Program Quality
- Day 3 – Project Development
- Within one year – Project implementation

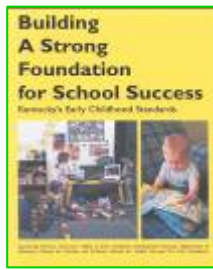


Family Involvement focus

- Overview of Day 1

- Benefits of Family Involvement
 - Research
- Roles families play
- Family and program partnerships
- Early childhood family involvement standards and laws
 - KY big picture and tools for parents
- Barriers

Parent Guides



Assessment Guide

Early Childhood Standards



Foundational Knowledge & Skills

School & Personal Success

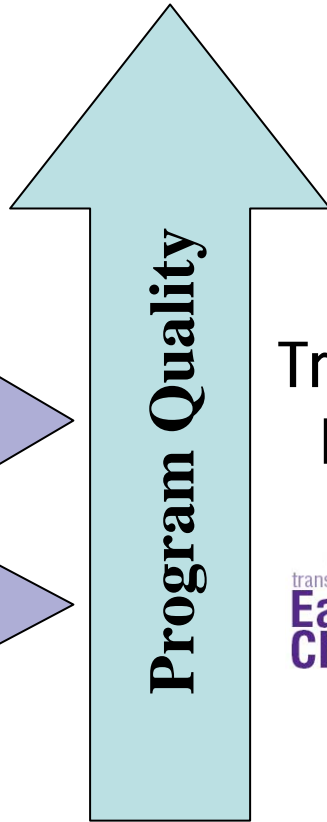
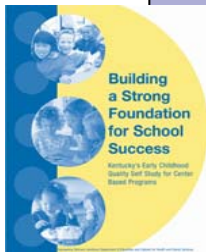


Core Content

Staff Competencies

Environmental Standards

Quality Self Study



Program Quality

Transition Report



Family involvement



11 Practices

KEY PRACTICES THAT INCREASE FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

- Strengthen belief that family involvement is important
 - staff and families
- Support families in their various family involvement roles
 - Teacher
 - Supporter
 - Advocate
 - Decision-maker

KEY PRACTICES...

- Promote effective culturally-appropriate, two-way communication
- Embrace philosophy of partnership
- Provide training to develop the capacity of staff and families to work with each other
- Provide effective leadership
- Develop and use written family involvement policies

KEY PRACTICES

- Develop a welcoming environment
- Develop trust between staff and families
- Reach out to ALL families
- Recognize/respect diversity

PLAN FOR FAMILY INVOLVEMENT – take the time and be deliberate

- Recruit and train leaders – to reach others
- Make specific plans with parent leaders
 - To improve family involvement
 - To improve program quality
- Stay in touch – coach them along
- Create reasons to celebrate families

Research says...

- Family involvement is the most accurate predictor of school success.
 - Create **home environment**
 - Express **expectations**
 - Become **involved**



Henderson & Berla, 1994

