



Collaboration & Partnership Strategies for Implementing Home Visiting Program: Examples through the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Grant in Washington State

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ECCS Overview

Statewide effort to support:

- Child well-being (whole child)
- Healthy development of young children
- School readiness and success

Project Goals

- Facilitate the development of a comprehensive early childhood system
- Clarify the role of 'health' in early childhood systems



Required Components

- Access to health insurance & a medical home
- Support for mental health & social/emotional development
- Quality child care and early childhood education
- Parent education
- Family support



Kids Matter:

Improving Outcomes for Children in Washington State

A framework for building an early childhood system



Kids Matter Framework: A Tool To...

- Bring together people and organizations with common goals
- Reduce fragmentation of systems and services
- Provide policy guidance to decision-makers
- Contribute to strong programs, services, schools, and communities

Kids matter was developed under the following tenets:

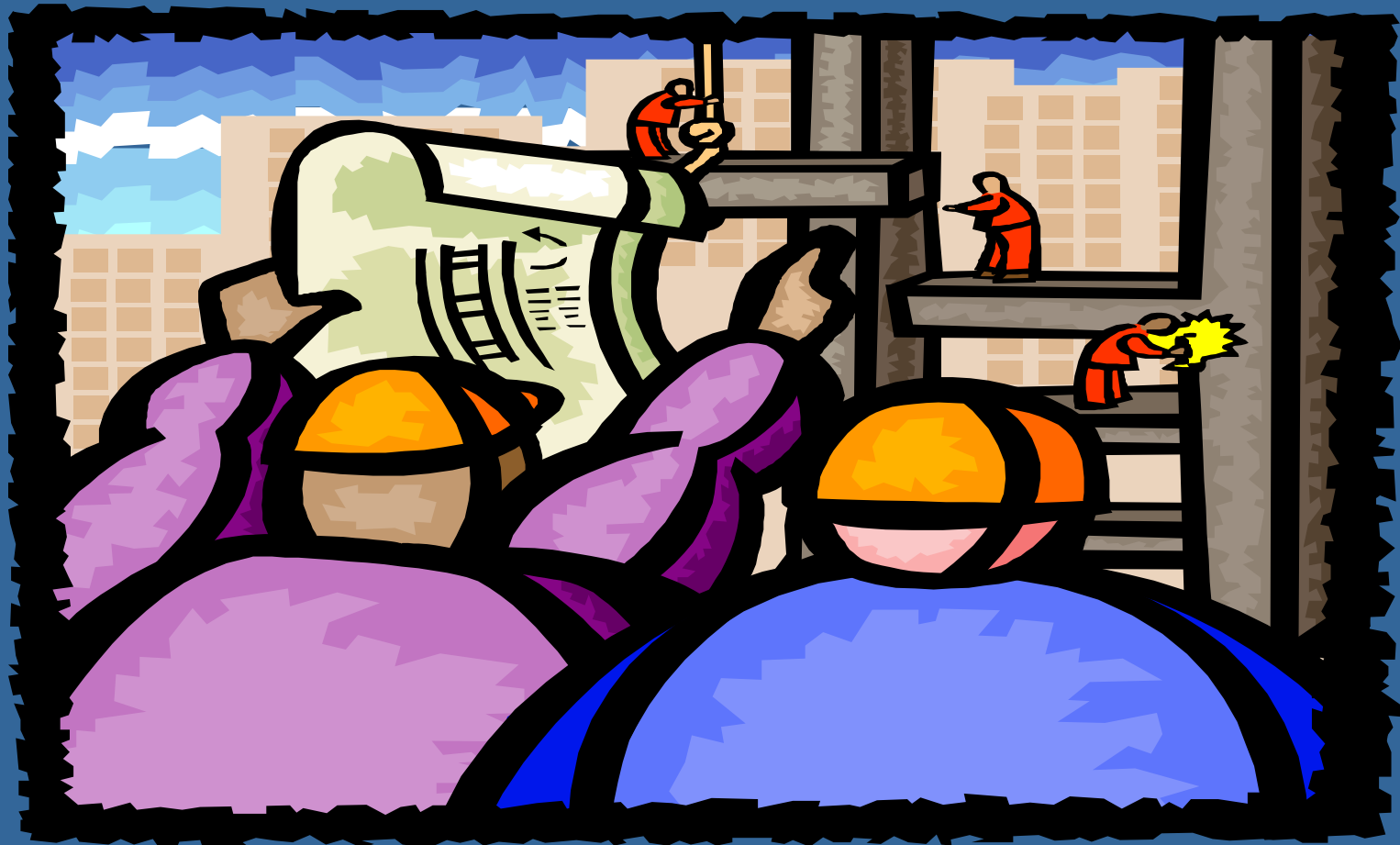
- Joint system building efforts built upon established plans
- Cross-system state agency participation
- Participatory community input from a broad constituency

Kids Matter: Hallmarks

- Approaches early childhood systems as a collaborative effort
- Serves as an over-arching bridge for a comprehensive framework
- Defines common goals and outcomes
- Outlines specific strategies and partners
- Focuses on accountability and evaluation of progress
- Systems Thinking approach that emphasizes the relationships among a system's parts



Create a Common Frame



Components of Comprehensive Early Childhood System

**ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE
AND MEDICAL HOMES**



**SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL,
AND MENTAL HEALTH**



**PARENTING INFORMATION
AND SUPPORT**



**EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION/
CHILD CARE**



KIDS MATTER FRAMEWORK

INFRASTRUCTURE

Research and Resources:
Infrastructure In WA State:
Projects and Initiatives:

COMMUNICATION

Children's Web Hub
211 Information and
Referral Line




FUNDING

Leverage public/private resources to
move the early care and education
agenda

KEY RESOURCES

STRATEGIES


ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE & MEDICAL HOMES

- Increase awareness among all who care for young children about the importance of comprehensive health care
- Enroll more eligible children in public health insurance programs (Medicaid, SCHIP, Basic Health, SS) 
- Facilitate access to a Medical Home for all children (including medical, dental, mental health & vision services) 
- Make developmental assessment & referral to Early Intervention (EI) accessible 



SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL & MENTAL HEALTH

- Ensure that communications with all who work with young children emphasizing the importance of social, emotional & mental health 
- Promote existing program's awareness & implementation of models of services & supports for young families that are effective, culturally competent & community-based 
- Promote existing programs' awareness & implementation of practices that provide opportunities for social connectedness for families 
- Promote caregivers' knowledge of social, emotional & mental health of young children 
- Promote collaboration among policymakers, providers & other stakeholders 

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION/CHILD CARE


- Use Washington State Early Learning & Development Benchmarks as a tool to enhance the quality of early care & learning 
- Improve the ability to evaluate & reward high-quality programs through development of Quality Rating system (QRS) & Tiered Reimbursement
- Promote children's health in early care & education programs (ongoing statewide collaborative effort: Healthy Children Care Washington - HCCW)
- Support high quality professional development services for caregivers
- Develop capacity within the early care & education systems to engage in family support
- Voluntary Universal Pre-K






PARENTING INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

- Provide information to parents & facilitate connection to needed services & supports 
- Provide professional development programs, services & supports for professionals providing information & support to parents 
- Strengthen & sustain the Washington Parenting Education Network (WAPEN)

SYSTEM CHANGES



- Increased number and percentage of children who have medical insurance


- Increased availability of appropriate and coordinated mental health services for children 

- Increased number and percentage of child care & preschool programs that are quality rated 
- Increased wages for quality child care providers 
- Increased systems' recognition of families' role as the primary nurturer of their children 
- The public sees early childhood education, health & school readiness as a major contributor of economic growth 
- Increased ability for parents and caregivers to access community resources and support networks 



- Increased availability of parent education resources & services

PARENT & CARE-GIVER CHANGES

- Increased understanding of the importance of comprehensive health care (including medical, dental, mental health & vision) 
- Increased ability to recognize an emerging issue with their child's health or development and connect with appropriate services 

- Improved understanding and practice of nurturing behaviors to promote children's optimal social-emotional development and mental health 

- Increased understanding of what children need for optimal health & development (physical, social-emotional, cognitive & language) 

- Increased stress-reduction skills 
- Increased knowledge & skills to support children's health & development 

CHILD CHANGES

- Increased number and percentage of children that receive recommended preventive care (e.g., well-child, immunizations)
- Increased number and percentage of children who have access to comprehensive health care (including medical, dental, mental health, vision)

- Increased number and percentage of children entering kindergarten with social-emotional skills

- Increased number and percentage of children entering kindergarten healthy & ready for school, including: 1) physical well-being, health & motor development; 2) social & emotional development; 3) approaches toward learning; 4) cognition & general knowledge; and 5) language, communication & literacy

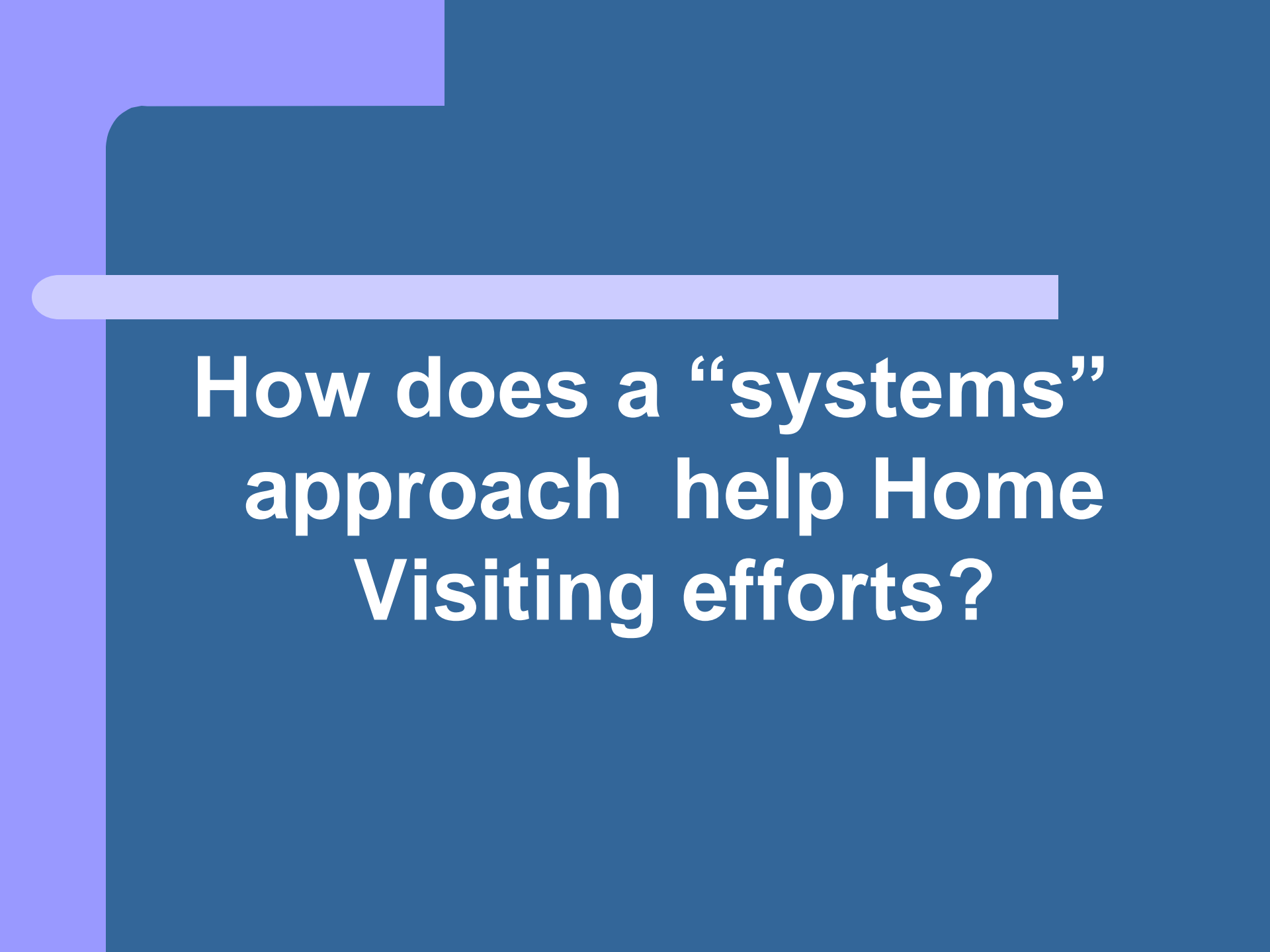
- Increased number and percentage of children who live in safe, stable & supportive families

GOAL

CHILDREN ARE HEALTHY AND READY FOR SCHOOL



Family Support approach, strategy, or outcome

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**How does a “systems”
approach help Home
Visiting efforts?**

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“Layer Cake”

ECCS – “Layer Cake”

Program Plan

Program Logic Model

Program/Agency Specific Focus

Program/Agency Comparisons

ECCS Systems Framework/Outcome Map



How Home Visiting Contributes to Early Learning & School Readiness

Early Learning is about more than ABCs and 123s

- Cognitive
- Social/emotional
- Physical well-being and development
- Communication, language and literacy

Happens whenever, wherever a child is!

- At home
- In child care
- In preschool
- In the community

...Home Visiting is a strategy that supports all of these components of early learning



How ECCS Systems Approach Added Value

- Provided a conceptual framework for creating a more integrated, accessible EC system
- A 'big tent' for all who care for young children
- A way to focus collaborative efforts 'strategically'
- Brought together new public & private partners
- 30,000 ft. level – allowed for flexibility so programs, initiatives and agencies could use

Lessons Learned

- RELATIONSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS
- Build on existing efforts... & give them credit
- Start with the end in mind
- Aim high – 30,000 feet
- Frame high – a “picture” for big tent...

Potential Partners

- Dept. of Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- Developmental Disabilities
- Medical Assistance Administration
- Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program
- Mental Health Department
- State Child Care Resource & Referral Network
- Local Health Jurisdictions, Health Department
- Local Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics
- Local Family Practice Association
- Child Abuse Prevention Agency
- Head Start/Early Head Start and Child Care
- Business and Philanthropy
- Other...

Contact Information

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