

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Creating an Early Childhood System





What is a System?

An organized, inter-related network of elements, programs, and services for all children.



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Purpose of System Planning in Arizona

- Achieve measureable results



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Why is a System Important?

Affecting school readiness requires comprehensive approaches and involvement from all sectors



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Why is a System Important?

- Maximize resources
- Foster partnerships and coordination
- Improve the performance of multiple system elements impacting families



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Why is a System Important?

- Helps to secure needed policy changes and improvements
- Better communication among partners
- Reduce turf issues through shared vision and agreed-upon goals and objectives
- Improve continuity of services





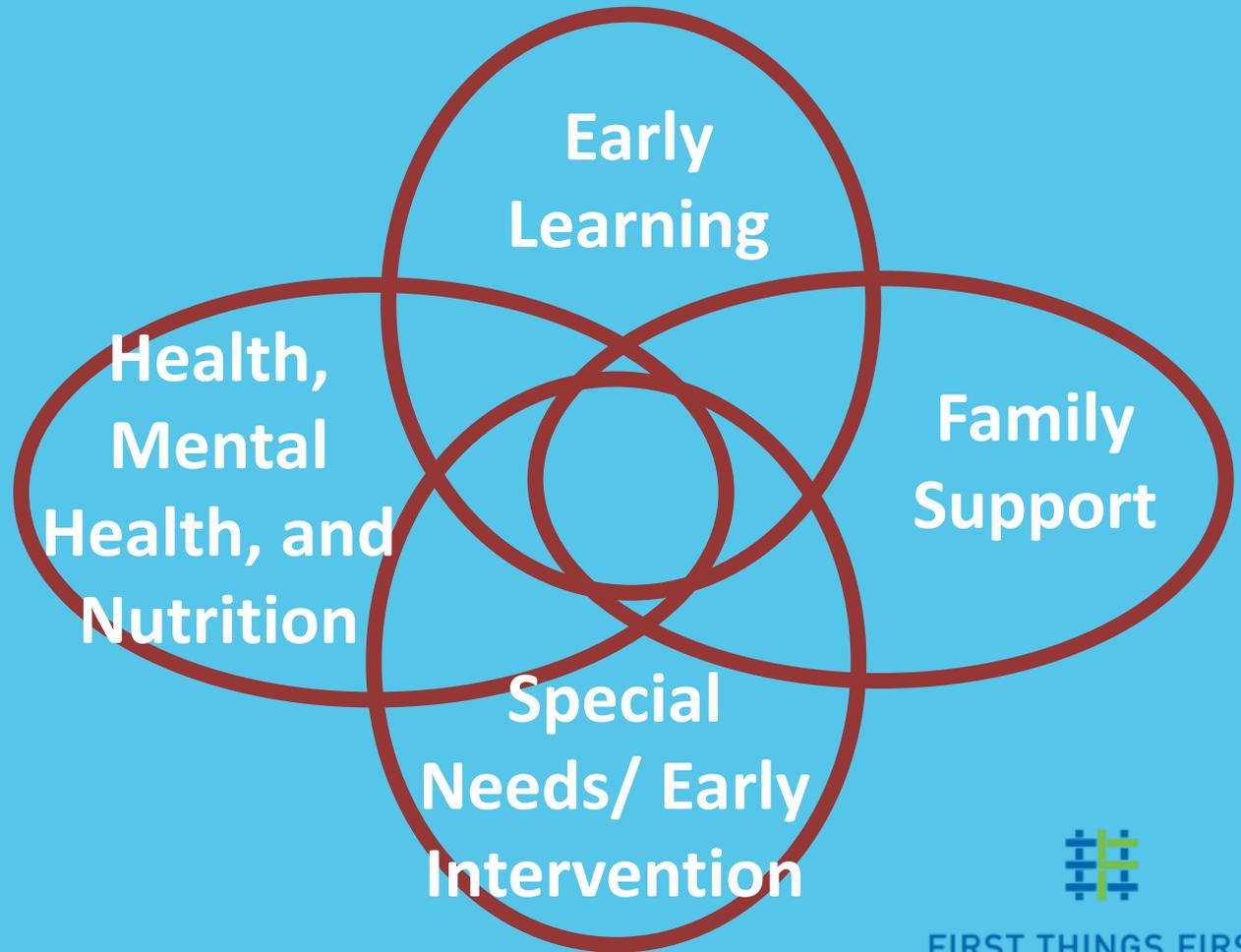
Characteristics of an Effective System

- Comprehensive
- Accessible
- Scalable
- Outcome focused
- Accountable

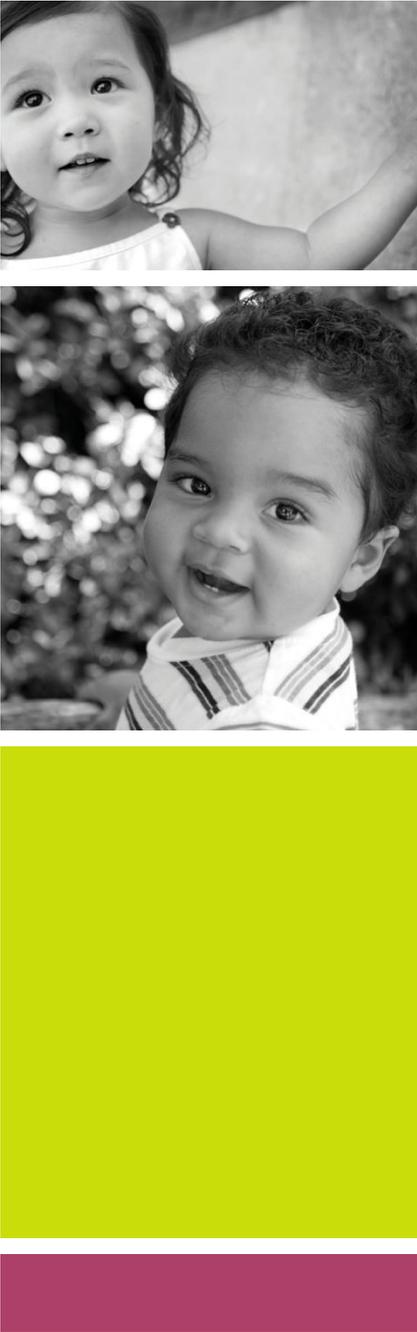




Early Childhood System Framework



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System Areas to Consider

- **Context**—successfully building a political context that leads to resources
- **Components**—establish effective programs and services
- **Connections**—create better linkages between components
- **Infrastructure**—create supports that enable continuous improvement
- **Scope and Scale**—the system can produce broad impacts for system beneficiaries





Roles of the System Partners

- **Leaders – convening and facilitating**
- **Partners – co-convene and facilitate or participate**
- **Participants**



Next Steps

- An open, visible process is needed;
- A diverse group of thinkers is important to draw from knowledge that already exists;
- Choose strategic areas to focus on for an actionable agenda;
- Consider breadth and depth of the system;
- Determine if components are equally weighted or if some areas are prioritized.



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