



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures



Early Childhood Family Support

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Bridging the Gap in Early Childhood Family Support



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What Do We Want for Children and Their Families?

Where Are We Now?

A Closer Look at Early Childhood Family Support

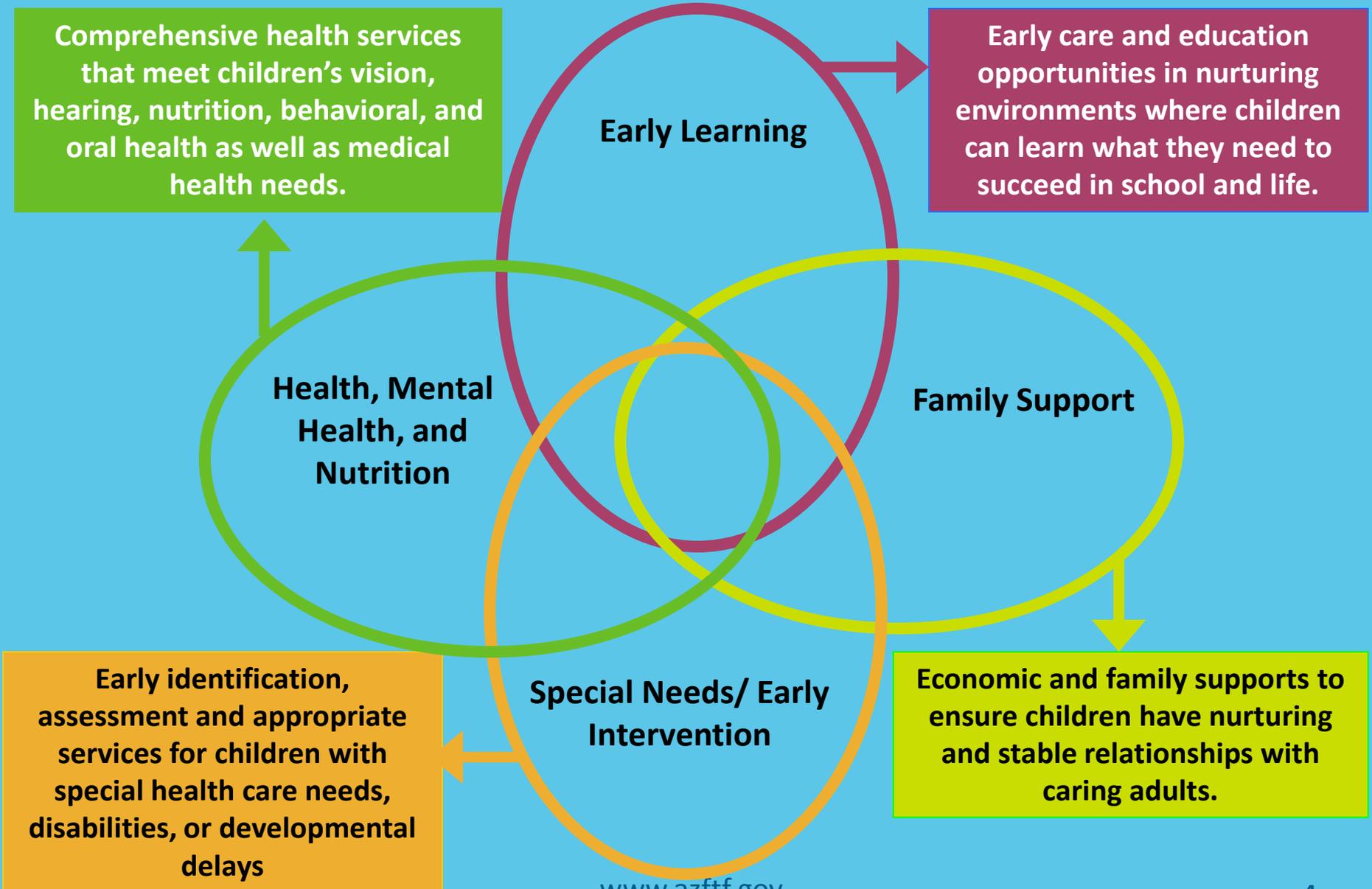


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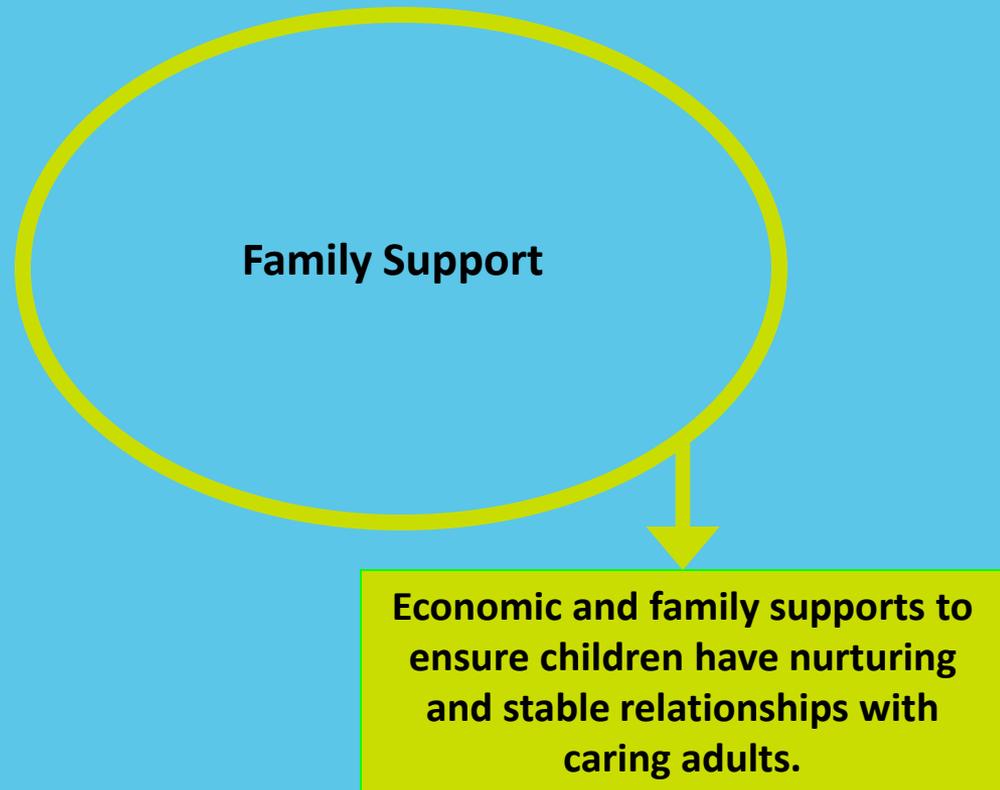
Examine individual areas of the early childhood development and health system:

1. What do we want for children and families?
2. What are the components of comprehensive system quality in each area?
3. What is already being addressed?
4. Where are the inadequacies?
5. What are the priorities and how will we address them?

Early Childhood System



Early Childhood System



Strength and Risk Factors of Families



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- Economic and educational factors
- Family demographics and environmental risks
- Community characteristics



Components of a Family Support System

Varied Voluntary Services Available for Families

- Varied Type of Intervention and Method of Delivery
- Targeted
- Evidence-based
- Continuum of services in intensity and duration
- Coordinated and Seamless in delivery

Economic Supports

- Financial stability and self-sufficiency
- Paid family leave and family friendly work policies
- Public or private resources as needed
- Safety net supports for families in crisis

Economic and family supports to ensure children have nurturing and stable relationships with caring adults.

Cultural Responsiveness

- Respect and understanding of cultural norms and traditions
- Information and materials in family's language

Statewide Information Systems

- **Connected across communities and programs**
- **Accessible**
- **Information, Education, Awareness**

Strong and Safe Communities

- Safe neighborhoods
- Diverse recreational opportunities
- Family and young child activities
- Partnerships between communities

What is Already Addressed?

Voluntary Services Available

- Family literacy
- Home visiting
- Early care and education
- Parent education
- Social networks of support

Economic Supports

- Child Care Subsidy
- On site and/or employer subsidized child care
- Employer provided family leave policies
- Infants at work policies
- TANF and other financial assistance programs
- Unemployment assistance

Cultural Responsiveness

- Tribal Sovereignty
- Refugee relocation programs
- Migrant education programs
- Community based organizations serving diverse populations

Economic and family supports to ensure children have nurturing and stable relationships with caring adults.

Statewide Information Systems

- Arizona Parent Kit
- Birth to Five Helpline
- Resource and referral services

Strong and Safe Communities

- Lead abatement programs
- New construction safety regulations (pool fencing)
- Public libraries
- Public and private parks and recreation activities
- Good neighbor programs
- Family and community resource centers

How Have Regions Added to the System?

Voluntary Services Available

- Emergency home visiting strategies targeting prevention of abuse and neglect
- Home visitation programs supporting parent education
- Community based parent education programs

Economic Supports

- Emergency food distribution strategies
- Emergency child care scholarships

Economic and family supports to ensure children have nurturing and stable relationships with caring adults.

Statewide Information Systems

- Regionally based resource centers
- Regionally funded help-lines

Strong and Safe Communities

Cultural Responsiveness

- Programs to support sustaining family culture and language

Where are the Inadequacies?



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- Lack of statewide program coverage
- Fragmented, inconsistent, and narrow service delivery
- Lack of awareness of program availability
- Limited accessibility to good, appropriate information related to parenting and child development
- Lack of stable resources

Addressing System Inadequacies



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- Create stronger community connections between services and programs to coordinate services across the state
- Collaborate with Communications Division to assure messages are timely and reach the targeted populations
- Limited accessibility to good, appropriate information related to parenting and child development
- Lack of stable resources

Proposed Statewide Family Support Strategies



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- Prioritize family support policy strategies
- Vet through Family Support Group
- Determine timeline and costs for implementation
- Identify recommended infrastructure strategies for State Grant funding
- Prepare recommendations for presentation and discussion at Board Meeting

