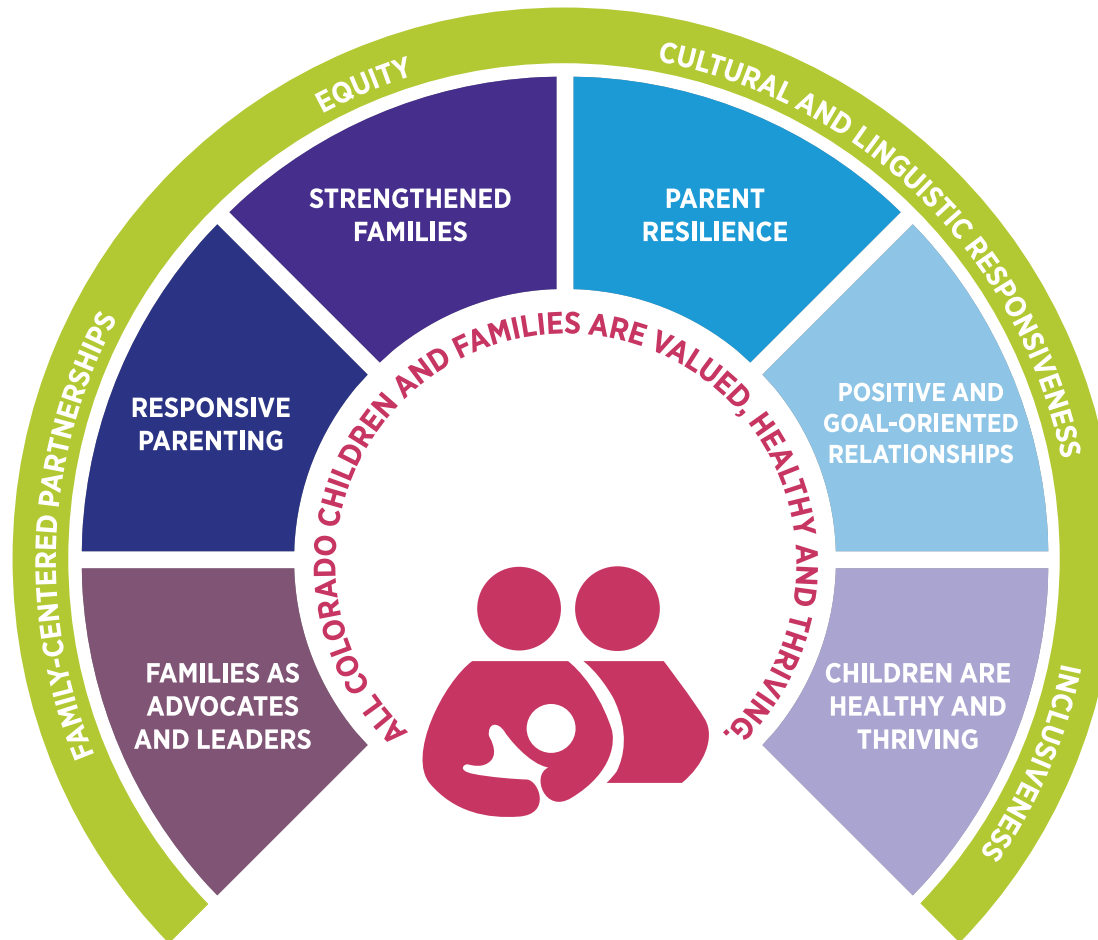


THE COLORADO EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

This Framework identifies and defines important family engagement concepts to be applied by schools, pediatric healthcare facilities, social services, and other organizations to guide the way services are designed and provided to children and their families.

The Framework helps organizations align towards a shared vision:
ALL COLORADO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ARE VALUED, HEALTHY, AND THRIVING.

This can be achieved through four principles representing the fundamental values of the Framework. When family engagement is strengthened through these principles, the six outcomes can be achieved.



TRANSLATING PRINCIPLES INTO ACTION

There are many ways organizations and entities can engage families using the four family engagement principles in the Framework. Below are examples of practices that could support effective family engagement. These examples were gathered from early childhood stakeholders in Colorado, including families of young children, during input gathering sessions. This is not considered an exhaustive list.

FAMILY CENTERED

EQUITY

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC RESPONSIVENESS

INCLUSIVENESS

- Supporting the development of family leadership and advocacy skills so that families can choose to take on a variety of roles in planning.
 - Helping families understand information about their child, such as assessment results, so that they can participate in decision-making as partners.
 - Creating parent boards and hosting meetings to cultivate family engagement.
 - Offering activities that support parent-child relationships and child development, including language, dual language, literacy, and biliteracy development.
 - Hiring community members and providing them with training to promote and practice inclusivity.
 - Treating everyone with respect and honoring them as whole individuals.
 - Making libraries freely available to all. For example, many libraries have eliminated fines and fees on children's materials to reduce barriers to using the library.
 - Providing civic engagement and advocacy capacity-building to immigrant/refugee parents to help them engage directly in early childhood initiatives that impact them.
 - Offering home visits to families in multiple languages to ensure that as many families as possible can benefit from the program.
 - Engaging families in the design stage to cocreate resources and materials and plan facilitation
- Polling the community to find out how and when they want to be engaged.
 - Communicating using multiple methods (e.g., phone, email, social media) and in multiple languages.
 - Consistently designing and implementing materials and facilitating activities that are accessible to everyone.
 - Providing regular trainings on equity and inclusion to make sure that partners are able to honor culturally diverse communities.
 - Acknowledging the expertise that families bring (i.e., reciprocity) to partnerships.
 - Starting off by asking, "What is most important for you to take away from this time/activity/engagement?"
 - Offering classes, such as painting, cooking, and sewing, that are taught by families.
 - Ensuring that programming and resources are responsive and inclusive.
 - Providing childcare, food, and interpretation services.
 - Providing opportunities for families to network and develop personal relationships with one another that are culturally and linguistically safe.
 - Engaging families in planning, leadership, and meaningful volunteer opportunities that result in changes and improvements at the organization.
 - Giving parent leaders the flexibility to develop and implement their own priorities and projects.