

# STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT ALL YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Collaborative Improvement & Innovation Network

## WHY DO WE NEED STRONGER EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS?



Research clearly demonstrates responsive, nurturing relationships in safe, engaging environments throughout the earliest years of life (starting prenatally) are at the foundation of healthy development and lifelong success. An early childhood comprehensive system is defined as an organized, purposeful partnership of interrelated and interdependent agencies/organizations, representing health, mental health, social services, families and caregivers, and early childhood education, collaboratively coordinating effective systems of care for children from birth to kindergarten entry.



## WHAT IS THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS COLLABORATIVE IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION NETWORK?



The Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (CoIIN) is a strategic effort to identify ways to accelerate improvement in early childhood systems, resources and coordination across sectors so that all children can achieve optimal and equitable early childhood developmental health outcomes. In partnership with the ECCS CoIIN Coordinating Center, 12 states and 28 local communities work to both improve systems, processes, structures and norms and generate innovative solutions. The ECCS CoIIN initiative is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and informs and contributes to this national effort, as well as advances state and local early childhood system coordination efforts.



## WHAT APPROACHES ARE BEING UTILIZED IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS COLLABORATIVE IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION NETWORK TO STRENGTHEN EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS?

### Develop and maintain partnerships and network

How: Expand the breadth of partners working to advance collaboration, foster effective collaborations, and promote contribution and impact towards a common vision of optimizing child developmental health

### Provide backbone support & mechanisms for connections and communication between State and community

How: Provide state-level support to community leaders and organizations to innovate, test and spread improvements resulting in a more efficient and coordinated system that supports optimal child development

### Implement capacity building efforts to promote and support early childhood

How: Use national resources, like the CDC's milestone tracker mobile app, to engage families and communities about child developmental health, the importance of developmental screening, and ways to support their optimal development

### Create early childhood systems infrastructure, improvement and sustainability

How: Improve processes between, and across, early childhood providers to allow for seamless connection to services and optimal coordination that support the healthy development of all children

### Advance policies and mobilize funding to sustain systems improvement

How: Work with community partners to identify the trainings and resources needed to develop and implement policies that will solidify, institutionalize and formalize responsive early childhood systems

### Strengthen family partnerships

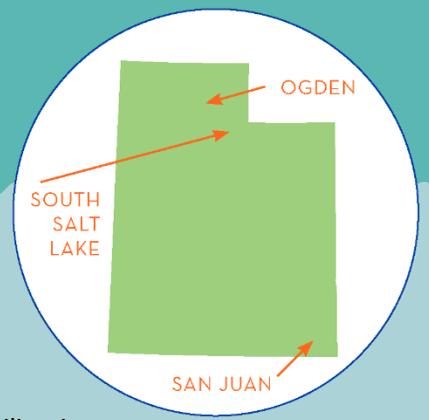
How: Involve family members from the start as experts and equal partners in co-design processes, programs and services that support and promote child developmental health.



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# EARLY CHILDHOOD IN UTAH



## CAPACITY-BUILDING EFFORTS

### Promoting & Supporting Early Childhood Development

- Expand Utah Department of Health (UDOH) use of Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) utilization by providing training on the use and promotion of the tool by health care providers, local health departments, childcare providers, and early childhood agencies statewide
- Partnered with [Help Me Grow Utah](#) and the Office of Home Visiting to increase capacity and expand ASQ training and screenings



## EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS

### Infrastructure, Improvement, and Sustainability

#### Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council

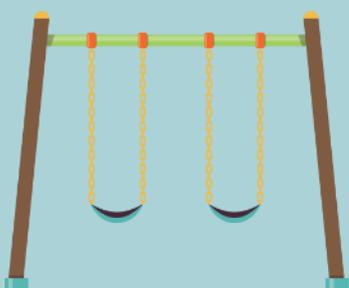
- The Early Childhood Utah (ECU) Advisory Council serves two purposes:
  - To serve as the council for the ECCS Impact Grant
  - To serve as the Council for the entire State of Utah related to early childhood
- The ECU Council is responsible to provide critical recommendations and information to the newly formed Utah Governor's Commission on Early Childhood. Representation on the ECU Council is multi-sector and includes participants from many areas of expertise in early childhood.

#### Early Childhood Integrated Data System

- The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) hosts [Utah's Early Childhood Integrated Data System \(ECIDS\)](#) along with two additional integrated data products. ECIDS, pronounced E-Kids, is a data system that integrates early care and education data from participating agencies and programs providing services to families with young children. ECIDS helps to identify and evaluate long-term outcomes attributed to early childhood investments.

Lead Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) data collection such as:

- Develop an ASQ account program inventory
- Compose and distribute informational emails to all programs currently enrolled in the ASQ database
- Survey all programs enrolled in the ASQ database to assess their interest in remaining enrolled and to determine if additional information and/or technical assistance from the state team is needed



Program Manager Family and Youth Outreach Program: Nicole Bissonette, [nicolebissonette@utah.gov](mailto:nicolebissonette@utah.gov)

Education Program Coordinator: Carrie Martinez, [carriemartinez@utah.gov](mailto:carriemartinez@utah.gov)

ECIDS Project Coordinator: Stephen Matherly, [ecids@utah.gov](mailto:ecids@utah.gov)

