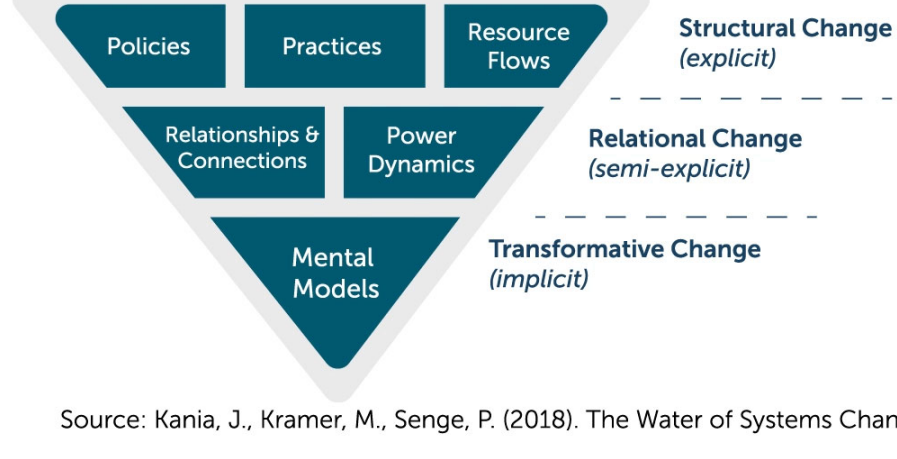




Shifting conditions. Engaging with families. Measuring progress.

No matter your aim, dive into our summer 2024 newsletter for resources, stories, events and more to help you with your early childhood systems-building efforts.

Shifting Conditions That Hold a Problem in Place



Source: Kania, J., Kramer, M., Senge, P. (2018). The Water of Systems Change

We recently hosted a webinar on The Water of Systems Change framework, which explains what it means to shift six interconnected conditions of systems change.

Why It Matters: Emphasis is often put on structural changes related to policies, practices and resource flows. But if we only focus on structural change, a system may snap back — we need to think “down the triangle” into the relational and transformative components of change.

- Melissa Passarelli from the Help Me Grow National Center and Jennifer Splansky Juster from the Collective Impact Forum walked through The Water of Systems Change and shared examples of how it can apply to early childhood systems building.
- For early childhood systems, change considerations may include leveraging and aligning fundings (structural), supporting co-creation with families (relational) and moving from deficit-based to asset-based thinking (transformative).
- Watch the [webinar](#) to learn more about the framework and how you can use it to build comprehensive, holistic early childhood systems change.

What Does It Mean to Be a Family Leader?

“ I will continue to make a positive impact on my community and those who are in need of support.

For Denise, a member of our Family Advisory Leadership Council, being a family leader means being able to advocate for her family and bridge the gaps between parents and resources. Denise has built her skills, participated in trainings and gained knowledge on how systems and programming for families work — all to support her community and other parents like her.

[Read Denise's Story](#)

Community Health Center Corner

Community health center staff can use these resources to improve developmental outcomes for children ages 0-5:

- We recently led a webinar about implementation strategies for early childhood care coordination and linkage in community health centers. Dr. Liz Isakson and Dr. Marian Earls presented on how to develop a practice process that empowers families, apply strategies to establish relationships with referral networks and agencies and create communication feedback loops so families can access services and share their experiences. Learn more key takeaways and watch the [recording](#).
- The Child & Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative’s [Well Visit Planner](#) is a brief and free online tool, available in English and Spanish, that families complete on their phone or computer before well-child visits for children up to 6 years old. Health center providers can set up a customized planner and secure data dashboard for the families they serve to get a whole child and family clinical data summary. This helps providers focus visit time to provide comprehensive, personalized care.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for the following events from the Center and our partners:

- Join us on Thursday, July 11, 4-5:30 PM EDT, for a [webinar about partnering with local early childhood developmental screening initiatives](#). This webinar is intended for early childhood health care providers, community-based organizations, public health workers and early childhood system leaders.
- Dive into the latest research and innovations in early childhood development by registering for [ZERO TO THREE's LEARN Conference](#) in Long Beach, CA on July 31 and August 1. Choose from 70+ sessions across multiple tracks.
- Attend the [Help Me Grow National Center open house](#) on Wednesday, July 24, 3 PM EDT to learn if Help Me Grow — the only evidence-based early childhood system model existing nationwide — is a good fit for your state or community.

Featured Resources

Family Engagement in Systems Assessment Tools (FESAT)

The [FESAT](#), developed by Family Voices, helps early childhood organizations plan, assess and improve family engagement in policies, programs and other systems-level initiatives. The FESAT includes a user guide, 20-item self-assessment tool, Excel score sheet and additional resources.

Early Childhood System Performance Assessment Toolkit

The [performance assessment toolkit](#) from the Center for the Study of Social Policy offers a set of five performance measures — foundations, reach, coordination, commitment and equity — to assess a community’s progress in building an early childhood system.

Communicating With Policymakers About Early Relational Health

Nurture Connection created a [how-to guide](#) to effectively communicate with policymakers about early relational health. The guide provides key messages to emphasize the need for public policies that support parents, strengthen protective factors and promote early relational health.

IMPACT Framework: Guide to Key Components of High Quality Early Childhood Measures

The IMPACT Measures Tool®, developed by the Institute for Child Success, is a free database of early childhood and parenting measures. The new [IMPACT Framework](#) guides users as they use the tool, learn about measurement concepts and select the measures that best align with their values and needs.

Medicaid Policies to Help Young Children Access IECMH Services

The Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy Center for Children and Families [shares a report](#) on how Medicaid and CHIP infant-early childhood mental health (IECMH)-related policies can be leveraged to offer families equitable access to essential support. Recommendations include strengthening policies to help identify children who may need IECMH services, prioritize IECMH in broader system reform efforts and monitor and report on the use and quality of IECMH services.

HealthySteps Sustainable Funding

The HealthySteps [sustainability webpage](#) can be used by any provider looking to secure funding and reimbursement for the provision of dyadic, team-based and/or integrated care in pediatric primary care settings. The webpage includes billing and coding resources, select state-specific resources, handouts on Medicaid cost-savings and more.

Transforming Early Childhood Systems Through Goal Concordant Care

The Help Me Grow National Center’s [new report](#) describes findings from a multi-year study on goal concordant care, a strengths-based approach that elevates families’ goals in the process of developmental promotion, early identification of concern, referral and linkage.

Tips to Support Healthy Mental and Emotional Development

Healthychildren.org’s four key [building blocks of healthy mental and emotional development](#) provide tips that parents and caregivers can use to help children thrive.



The [Early Childhood Developmental Health Systems \(ECDHS\): Evidence to Impact Center](#) focuses on building and advancing early childhood systems to improve and strengthen the health and well-being of babies and toddlers. ZERO TO THREE leads the Center in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics, Help Me Grow National Center, Center for the Study of Social Policy, Family Voices, Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development, and Institute for Child Success.

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