

EARLY BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Promising Pathways for Public Health Leaders



Promote positive and responsive caring relationships.

Ongoing interactions between children and caregivers, called *serve and return*, are critical for long-term health and well-being.



Reduce sources of stress and identify risks early.

Reducing sources of stress and identifying developmental risks early can support families and reduce the crippling effects of early stress and adversity.



Develop an early childhood infrastructure that supports healthy development.

Connecting health and early learning systems can help promote safe, stable, and responsive relationships and homes.



Improve outcomes measurement and evaluation.

Working toward a common goal of lifelong health and wellness, states are adopting varied approaches to define and measure outcomes for children and families.

Examples



Georgia Department of Public Health's Talk With Me Baby initiative encourages parents and caregivers to talk to, read to, and sing to their infants and toddlers to increase the quality and quantity of language exposure.



California's Department of Health Care Services will launch a **Whole Child Model** in 21 counties to help families enrolled in MediCal access all health services for their children through a single organization.



Missouri Department of Public Health, WIC, and the University of Missouri's Developmental Milestones Program helps parents learn the signs of healthy development, act early if there is a concern, and talk to the child's primary care provider to address developmental concerns.



The Ready Kid San Antonio Coalition identified three **results-based accountability indicators** for happy, healthy, and school-ready children, and developed a scorecard that quantifies the progress toward these indicators.



Iowa's 1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative builds partnerships between physician practices and public service providers to enhance well-child care.



Connecticut's Office of Early Childhood Rate Card Pilot Initiative rewards home visiting providers for achieving key results for at-risk families.