



# Orange County Early Childhood Policy Framework

Our shared vision: All children are valued, nurtured, healthy, and thriving

## Core Principles

- Children and families thrive regardless of income, language and culture
- Supports and services are coordinated and integrated across settings and sectors
- Policies and practices are family-centered

## Strategies for Action

- Promote and share knowledge
- Identify and eliminate barriers
- Build community capacity
- Make data-informed decisions
- Encourage public-private approaches
- Advance adequate and sustainable funding
- Implement quality standards
- Embed continuous quality improvement
- Ensure coordinated messaging

## Goals

- 1 Resilient Families
- 2 Quality Early Learning
- 3 Comprehensive Health & Development

## Results



**Child:** Young children reach their developmental potential and are ready to succeed in school and in life



**Relationships:** Adults are knowledgeable, nurturing, responsive and interact effectively with other adults, children and the family unit



**Environments:** Environments that impact children are safe, supportive, stable and healthy



**Orange County:** Orange County attains economic and social benefits by prioritizing children and families

# Objectives by Goal Area

Fundamentals	1 Resilient Families	2 Quality Early Learning	3 Comprehensive Health & Development
<p><b>Access</b></p> <p>Recognizes that availability of services are important</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parenting programs are sufficiently available, promote the resilience of caregivers, and enhance knowledge of parenting and child development</li> <li>• Programs, schools and communities offer opportunities for family engagement and leadership</li> <li>• Family friendly policies and practices exist in the workplace</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High quality, developmentally appropriate learning experiences and environments are sufficiently available to meet the needs of all children and families</li> <li>• Education, coaching and training are available for caregivers, teachers and other professionals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive health coverage and services are sufficiently available and utilized, including screening, early identification, consultation and treatment</li> <li>• Mental health needs are identified and treated</li> <li>• Workforce shortages of pediatric specialists are addressed</li> </ul>
<p><b>Quality</b></p> <p>Recognizes that services must meet a standard of quality, not simply exist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programs promote and support family self-efficacy and self-sufficiency</li> <li>• Families are empowered to choose high quality comprehensive services, supports and education</li> <li>• Services and programs for families incorporate protective factors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal and informal care environments and education practices reach the highest standards of quality</li> <li>• Curriculum and behavior expectations for programs serving children in TK through 2nd grade are developmentally appropriate</li> <li>• All settings provide effective transitions across and within programs, schools and systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providers and practices consistently meet quality indicators for their respective standards of care</li> <li>• Settings and practices promote positive relationships, optimal child development, and appropriate nutrition and physical activity</li> </ul>
<p><b>Equity</b></p> <p>Recognizes that special populations need special attention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All families have help to access preventive, timely and coordinated services and supports according to their needs, including high-need children and families and special populations</li> <li>• Education, employment, housing, financial, health and legal supports and policies contribute to family economic stability and long-term security</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readiness and academic achievement gaps are eliminated for children birth through eight</li> <li>• Early childhood professionals are well-trained and well-compensated across programs and settings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health disparities are eliminated through education, employment, housing, financial and legal policies that support child and family health</li> <li>• All environments are safe, free of toxins, have affordable nutritious foods and other opportunities for physical activity</li> <li>• Children with special health, behavioral or developmental needs receive individualized services and supports</li> </ul>