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State Capacity Building Center

# Integrating Evaluation into Infant/Toddler Initiatives

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# Welcome



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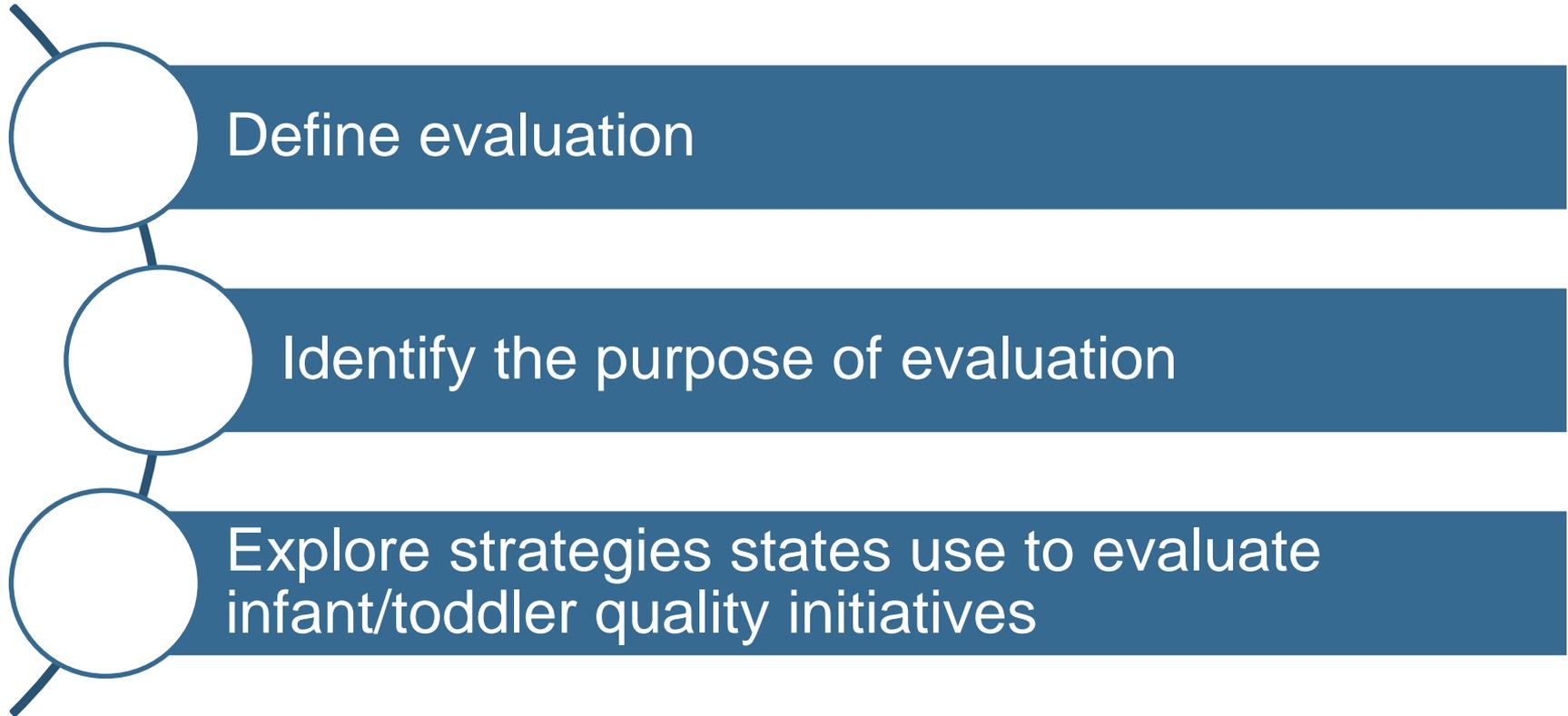


# Overview and Agenda

- ◆ Welcome
- ◆ Why evaluation?
- ◆ What is evaluation?
- ◆ What are some best practices with evaluation?
- ◆ What are some state examples of evaluation related to infant/toddler care?
- ◆ What are your questions about evaluation?
- ◆ Thank you

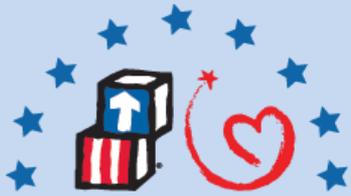


# Professional Learning Goals



# What Is Your Experience with Evaluation?

- ◆ I'm familiar with the term
- ◆ I've participated in evaluation efforts
- ◆ I've read evaluation reports
- ◆ I've helped develop an evaluation plan
- ◆ I've conducted evaluations
- ◆ All of the above
- ◆ Other



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# Why Evaluation?



# Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan Preprint Guidance on Evaluation

7.5.2. Describe the measureable indicators of progress relevant to this use of funds that the state/territory will use to evaluate its progress in improving the quality of child care programs and services for infants and toddlers within the state/territory and the data on the extent to which the state or territory has met these measures.

Source: Child Care and Development Fund Plan for States/Territories for FFY 2019-2021(ACF-118)

# Infant/Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN) Community of Practice Evaluation Questions

How do other states evaluate their ITSNs?

How do you evaluate without additional funding?

How do we evaluate whether we are impacting quality?

How can we prove or evaluate whether relationship-based care is working?

How do we measure effectiveness in working with providers?

What tools are available for tracking?

What are the tools used for assessment?

What are different states doing?

How do we demonstrate accountability for measuring relationship-based practices?

How do we measure and document the effectiveness of time spent building relationships with providers?

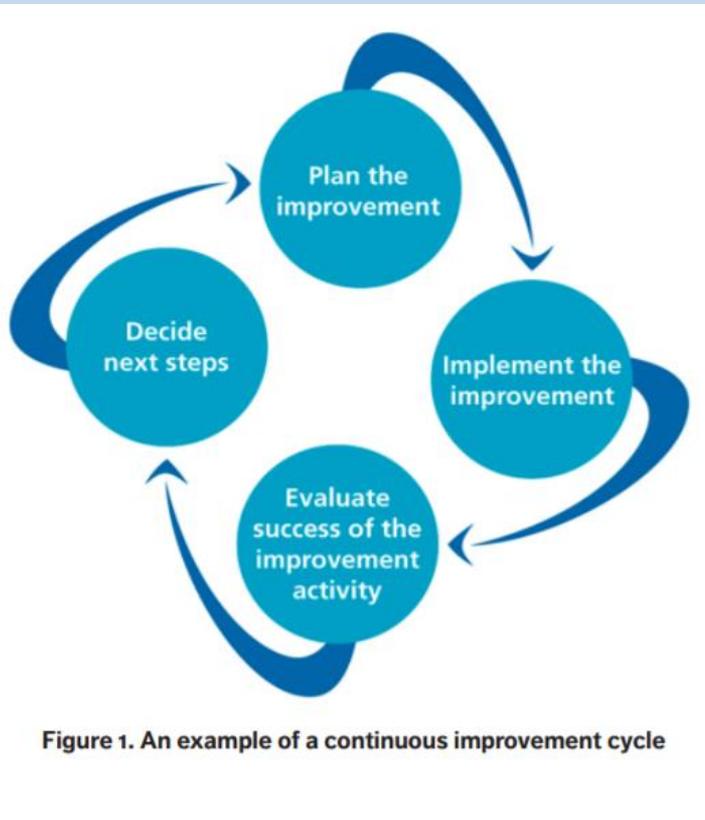
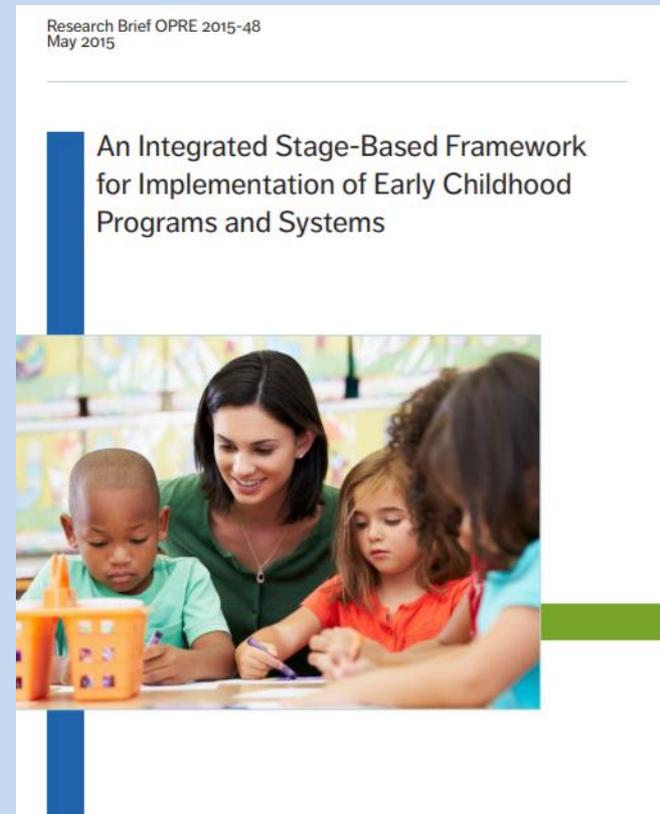


Figure 1. An example of a continuous improvement cycle



Source: Metz, A., Naom, S.F., Halle, T., & Bartley, L. (2015). *An integrated stage-based framework for implementation of early childhood programs and systems* (OPRE Research Brief OPRE 2015-48). Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



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# What Is Evaluation?

“The making of a judgement about the amount, number, or value of something; assessment”

Oxford Dictionaries, <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/evaluation>

# Types of Evaluation

Formative evaluation

Process and implementation evaluation

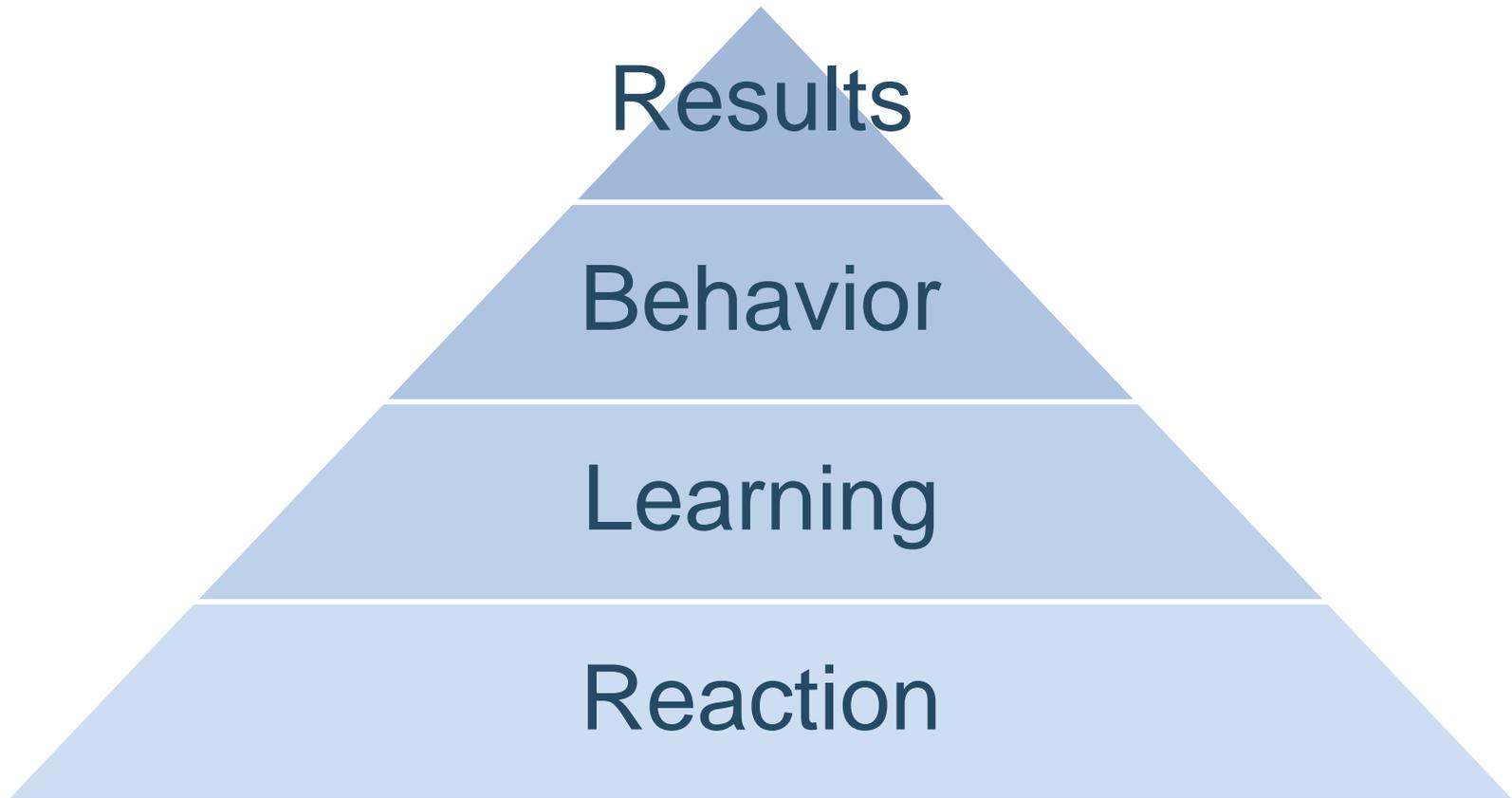
Outcome and effectiveness evaluation

Impact evaluation

Evaluation Types	When to use	What it shows	Why it is useful
Formative Evaluation Evaluability Assessment Needs Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the development of a new program.</li> <li>• When an existing program is being modified or is being used in a new setting or with a new population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether the proposed program elements are likely to be needed, understood, and accepted by the population you want to reach.</li> <li>• The extent to which an evaluation is possible, based on the goals and objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It allows for modifications to be made to the plan before full implementation begins.</li> <li>• Maximizes the likelihood that the program will succeed.</li> </ul>
Process Evaluation Program Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As soon as program implementation begins.</li> <li>• During operation of an existing program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How well the program is working.</li> <li>• The extent to which the program is being implemented as designed.</li> <li>• Whether the program is accessible and acceptable to its target population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides an early warning for any problems that may occur.</li> <li>• Allows programs to monitor how well their program plans and activities are working.</li> </ul>
Outcome Evaluation Objectives-Based Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After the program has made contact with at least one person or group in the target population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The degree to which the program is having an effect on the target population's behaviors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tells whether the program is being effective in meeting its objectives.</li> </ul>
Economic Evaluation: Cost Analysis, Cost-Effectiveness Evaluation, Cost-Benefit Analysis, Cost-Utility Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the beginning of a program.</li> <li>• During the operation of an existing program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What resources are being used in a program and their costs (direct and indirect) compared to outcomes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides program managers and funders a way to assess cost relative to effects. "How much bang for your buck."</li> </ul>
Impact Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the operation of an existing program at appropriate intervals.</li> <li>• At the end of a program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The degree to which the program meets its ultimate goal on an overall rate of STD transmission (how much has program X decreased the morbidity of an STD beyond the study population).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides evidence for use in policy and funding decisions.</li> </ul>

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *Types of evaluation*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/std/Program/pupestd/Types%20of%20Evaluation.pdf>

# Evaluation Model Example: Kirkpatrick



Kirkpatrick Partners. (n.d.). The Kirkpatrick Model. Retrieved from <https://www.kirkpatrickpartners.com/Our-Philosophy/The-Kirkpatrick-Model>



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# What Are Some Best Practices with Evaluation?

# What Do You Want to Evaluate?

- ◆ What is the “what”?
- ◆ How does a logic model support this effort?
- ◆ How can you use logic model builders?
  - Child Welfare Information Gateway:  
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/management/effectiveness/logic-model/>
  - Quality frameworks



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# Sample Logic Model

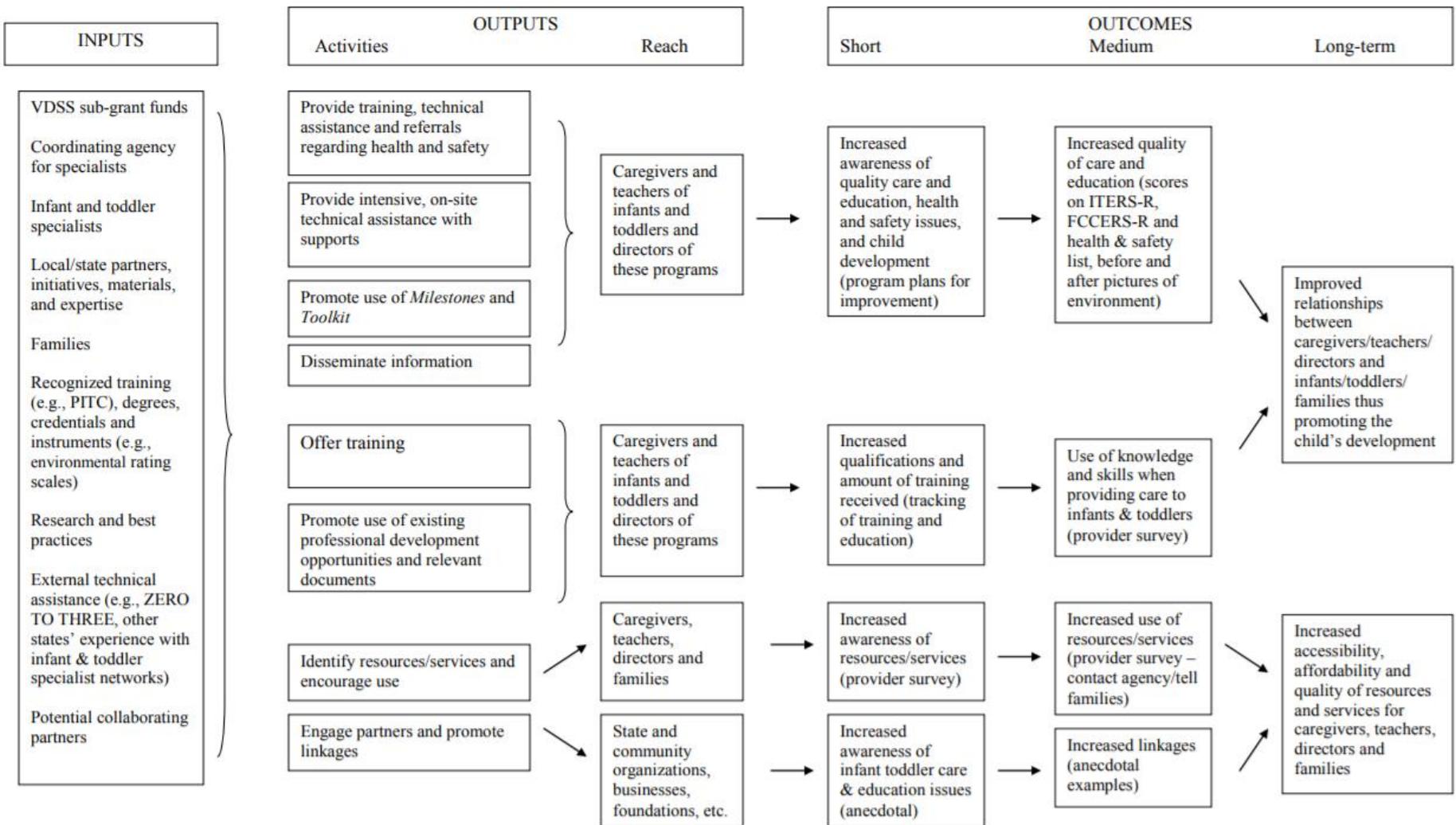
Virginia Infant/Toddler Specialist Network

# RFP # CECD-12-042. LOGIC MODEL – INFANT & TODDLER SPECIALIST NETWORK

RFP # CECD-12-042

LOGIC MODEL – INFANT & TODDLER SPECIALIST NETWORK

Attachment E



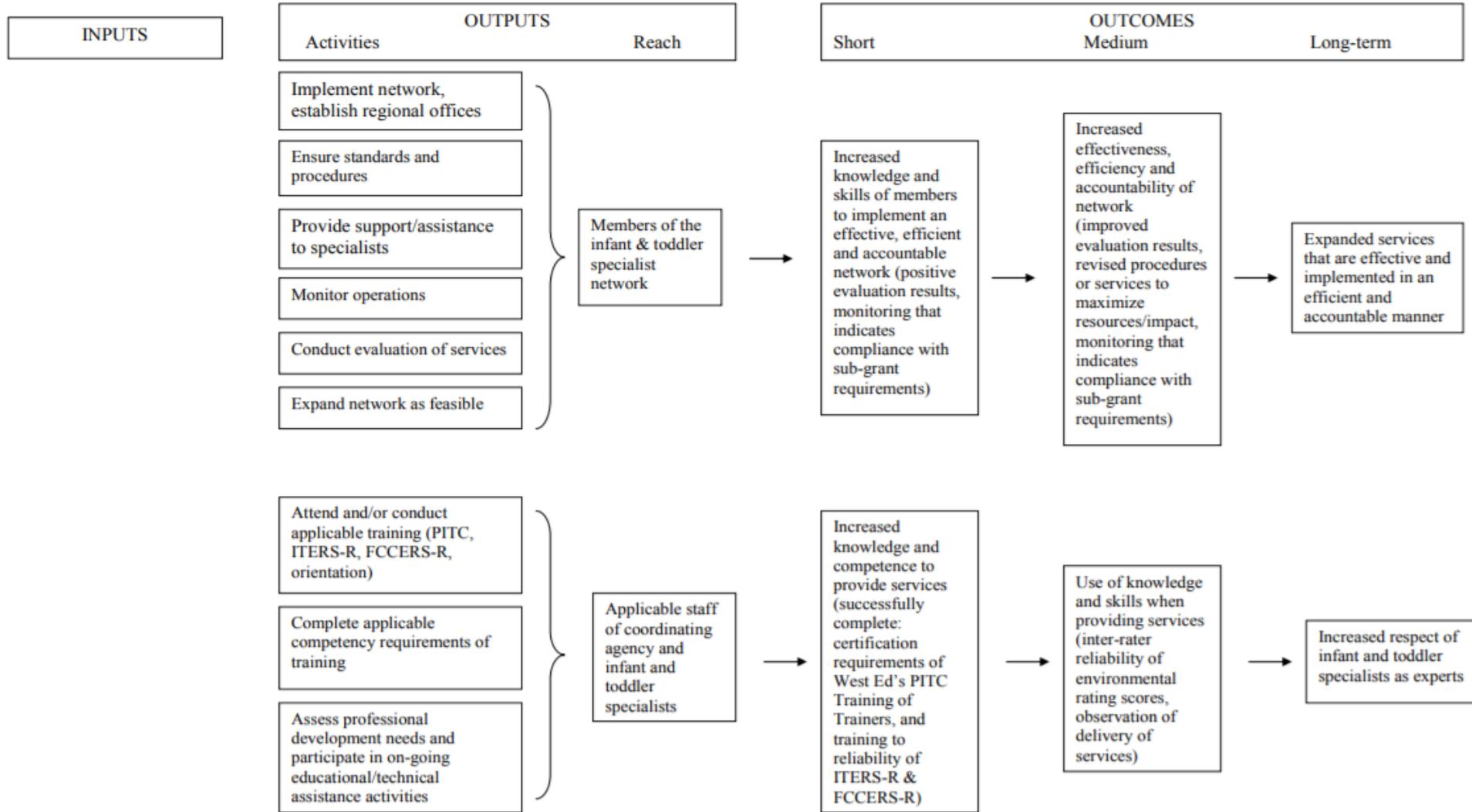
Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Social Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Development.(2011) RFP # CECD-12-042. Richmond, Virginia. Retrieved from [https://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/forms/grants/cecd-12-042/attachment\\_e.pdf](https://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/forms/grants/cecd-12-042/attachment_e.pdf)

# RFP # CECD-12-042. LOGIC MODEL – INFANT & TODDLER SPECIALIST NETWORK

RFP # CECD-12-042

## LOGIC MODEL – INFANT & TODDLER SPECIALIST NETWORK

Attachment E



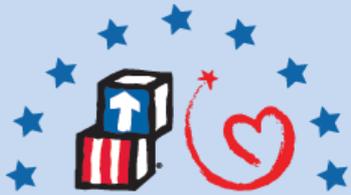
Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Social Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Development. (2011) RFP # CECD-12-042, Richmond, Virginia. Retrieved from [https://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/forms/grants/cecd-12-042/attachment\\_e.pdf](https://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/forms/grants/cecd-12-042/attachment_e.pdf)

# Considerations for Data Collection

If you have data, you can evaluate!

If you have data, you can answer questions!

Data is valuable in words (qualitative) and numbers (quantitative)!



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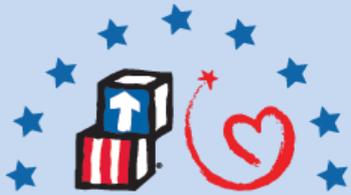
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What Are Some State Examples  
of Evaluation Related to  
Infant/Toddler Care?

# State Examples of Infant/Toddler Quality Initiative Evaluation

- ◆ Tennessee infant/toddler credential pilot
  - <http://indigoculturalcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/reports/TN-Infant-Toddler-Credential-Evaluation-Report-Final-4-7-11-copy.pdf>
  
- ◆ Wisconsin infant/toddler credential
  - <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/20130628pdwcenterwievaloverviewfinal.pdf>
  
- ◆ Colorado Expanding Quality in Infant/Toddler Care Initiative
  - <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10409289.2014.941260?src=recsys&journalCode=heed20>



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# Virginia's Infant/Toddler Specialist Network Evaluation



# Virginia's Presenters



Amy Stutt  
Statewide Director  
Virginia Infant & Toddler Specialist Network



Arlene Kasper  
Program Development Consultant  
Virginia Department of Social Services

# VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

*“Achieving Excellence in Early Care”*



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INFANT & TODDLER SPECIALIST  
NETWORK

*“Achieving Excellence in Early Care”*

# Network Logic Model

- Inputs
- Outputs
- Outcomes



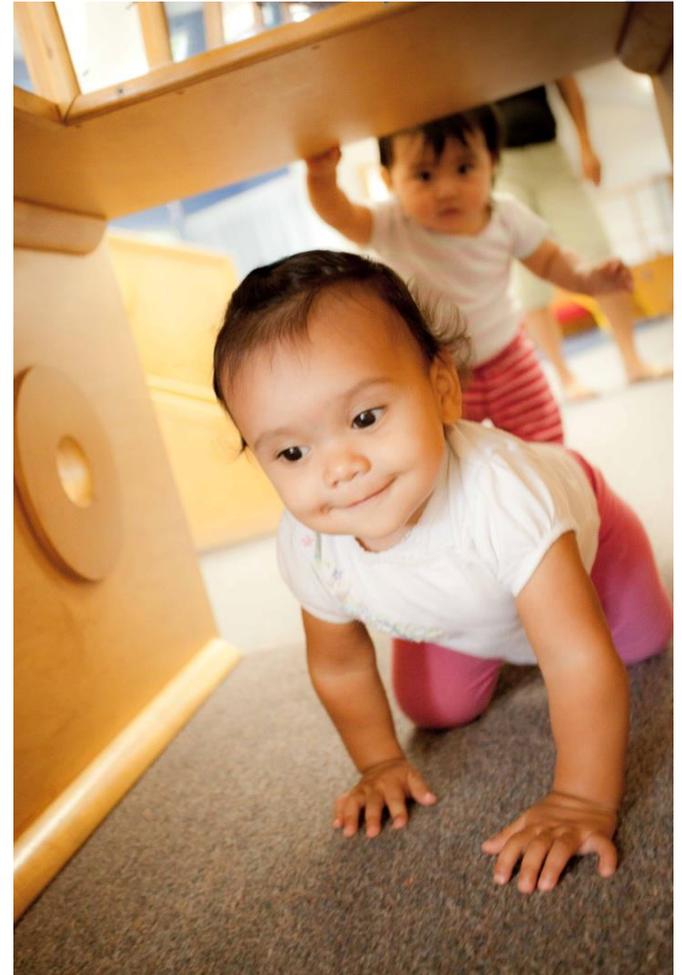
# Overview of Activities/Outcomes

- High Level Outcome
- Activities
- Staff Responsible
- Output
- Outcomes
- Evaluation



# Purpose of Network Evaluation

- Extent implementing planned activities
- Extent services are useful in meeting providers' needs
- Results or benefits of the services



# Knowledge Gained from the Evaluation

- Quality of child care
- Information for continual improvement
- Progress on meeting outcomes
- Information for changes in program
- Effective practices/services



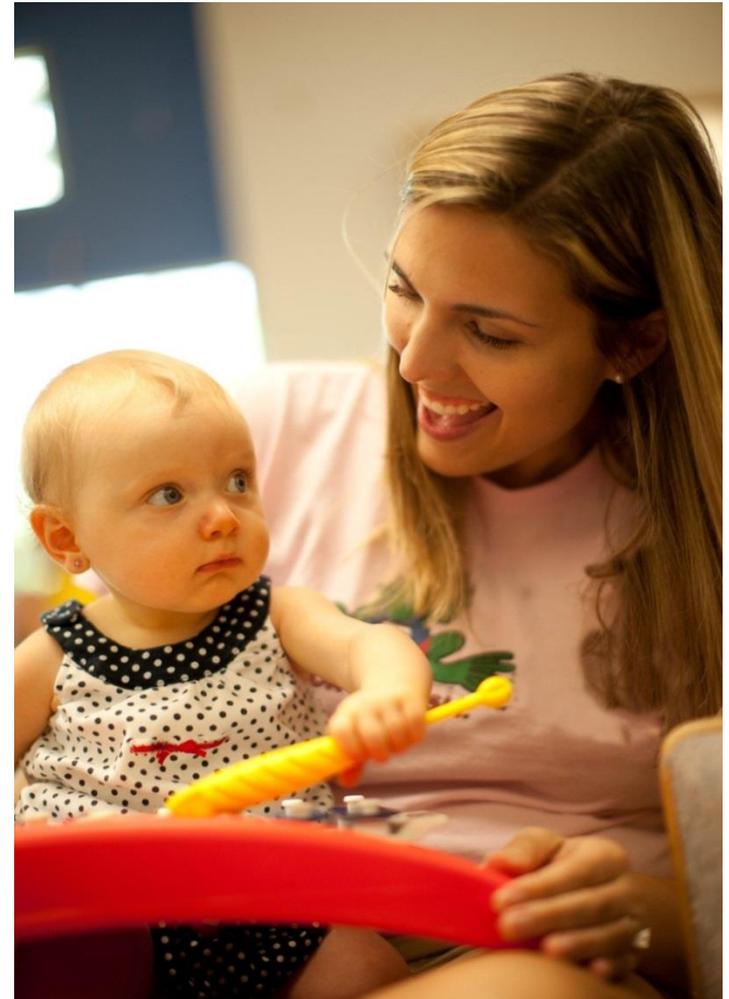
# Changes to the Evaluation

- Sustainability of Improvements
- Qualitative documentation
- Frequency of questionnaire use



# Interesting Findings and Challenges

- Consistency of results
- Variations between regional offices
- High levels of satisfaction
- Feasibility of the frequency of evaluations
- Scheduling of Environment Rating Scale assessments



# Next Steps

- New infant and toddler mental health consultation
- ITERS-3
- Pre- and post-knowledge measures
- Consideration of outside evaluation
- Continual improvements





For more information, contact us at:  
[www.va-itsnetwork.org](http://www.va-itsnetwork.org)

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INFANT & TODDLER SPECIALIST  
NETWORK

“Achieving Excellence in Early Care”

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES



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# Questions, Thoughts, and Reflections about Evaluation



# Additional Resources to Support Evaluation of Quality Initiatives

- ◆ **2016 Quality Investments: How to Use Administrative Data and Other Sources to Evaluate What Is Working**

This webinar series examines evaluation options and implementation strategies to help states and territories identify the resources, data sources, and costs associated with evaluating quality initiatives, with a particular focus on evaluation related to Child Care and Development Fund quality activities.

<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/webinar-series-quality-investments-how-use-administrative-data-and-other-sources-evaluate>

- ◆ **Assessing Capacity for Evaluation: Discussion Guide**

This guide identifies six elements for building capacity for evaluation and accountability. Questions to prompt discussion and reflection among planning and stakeholder groups are followed by suggested strategies to address each element.

[https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/sssn\\_assessingcapacityforevaluation\\_0.pdf](https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/sssn_assessingcapacityforevaluation_0.pdf)

# Additional Resources to Support Evaluation of Quality Initiatives

- ◆ **FRIENDS Child Welfare Gateway Evaluation Toolkit**

This online compendium of information and resources supports developing an individualized outcome evaluation plan from the ground up.

<http://www.friendsnrc.org/evaluation-toolkit>

- ◆ **Staffed Family Child Care Networks**

This document outlines the four stages of successful network implementation—exploration, installation, initial implementation, and full implementation.

<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/developing-staffed-family-child-care-network-technical-assistance-manual>

- ◆ **Strengthening State and Territory Infant/Toddler Child Care System Policies and Practices: A Tool for Advancing Infant/Toddler Child Care Quality**

This tool is designed to support state child care leaders and infant/toddler stakeholders as they assess, prioritize, plan, implement, and evaluate state policies to strengthen infant/toddler child care quality.

<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/strengthening-state-and-territory-infanttoddler-child-care-system-policies-and-practices>

# Contact Information

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**Thank you for your participation!**

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