



Innovations in Infant/Toddler Care in SC

December 7, 2016

Development of South Carolina's New Early Learning Standards

- Progression from 2006 Good Start Grow Smart ELS (3-5) > 2009 SC Infant Toddler Guidelines (0-3) > 2017 SC Early Learning Standards (Birth to 5 years)
- 2017 ELS adapted from NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development
- Co-chaired by SC DSS and SC Department of Education
- Stakeholders included: teachers, administrators, professional development providers, policy makers, and researchers
- Guidance from national experts
- Public comment process

Guiding Principles for ELS

- Balance between DAP and academic rigor
- Clear and easy examples for teachers
- Similar age grouping to SC's current standards
- Domains: physical, social/emotional, learning through play, literacy, cognitive development, and math
- Cultural relevance addressed
- Support for English Language Learners

Progression of Age Levels

- Infants (Birth – 12 months)
- Younger Toddlers (8 – 21 months)
- Older Toddlers (18 – 36 months)
- Younger preschoolers (36 – 48 months)
- Older Preschoolers (48 – 60+ months)

Features

- Text Box "Reminders"
- Strategies for teachers
- Organized by Domain, Sub-Domain, Goal, Developmental Indicator

Current Status

- Final edits underway
- Train the trainer to be developed
- Implementation of training and use of ELS planned for 2017

Upcoming Opportunities

- Certified trainers can attend training on the new ELS in 2017

Revised ABC Quality Rating and Improvement System Standards and Process

Why the current revision?

- ABC Standards in place for 24 years with minor adaptations; need for update to reflect current best practices
- Alignment to South Carolina's core competencies and new ELS
- Infant Toddler Standards developed in collaboration with SC PITC
- Streamlined system to enable providers to move to higher quality levels more easily

Major Changes to the Process

- Moving from paper application to online application
- Desk review of policies and documentation prior to observation
- One application to apply for all quality levels – performance will determine quality level and review will be more transparent for provider to see next steps for improvement
- Increased emphasis on rater reliability and reliability of TA providers to ABC assessors
- More support for providers on Quality Improvement Plans
- End goal: one review tool for all ABC quality levels

New Infant Toddler Standards

- Responsive and Sensitive Care (precursor Staff-Child Interactions)
- Language and Communication (precursor Staff-Child Interactions)
- Guidance (precursor Staff-Child Interactions)
- Program Structure (precursor Staff-Child Ratio, Staff-Child Interactions, Activities)
- Early Learning (precursor Activities)
- Environment (precursor Environment)

Current Status

- Final edits to Infant Toddler Standards underway
- Scheduled sessions on new standards at SCECA conference in early 2017
- Preparation for "soft" rollout of Infant Toddler and Administrative standards in 2017

Upcoming Opportunities

- Entities wishing to provide technical assistance to ABC Quality programs on ABC Quality Improvement Plans can apply with ABC Quality to become reliable with ABC anchors. (Estimate late 2017)

For More Information Contact:

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