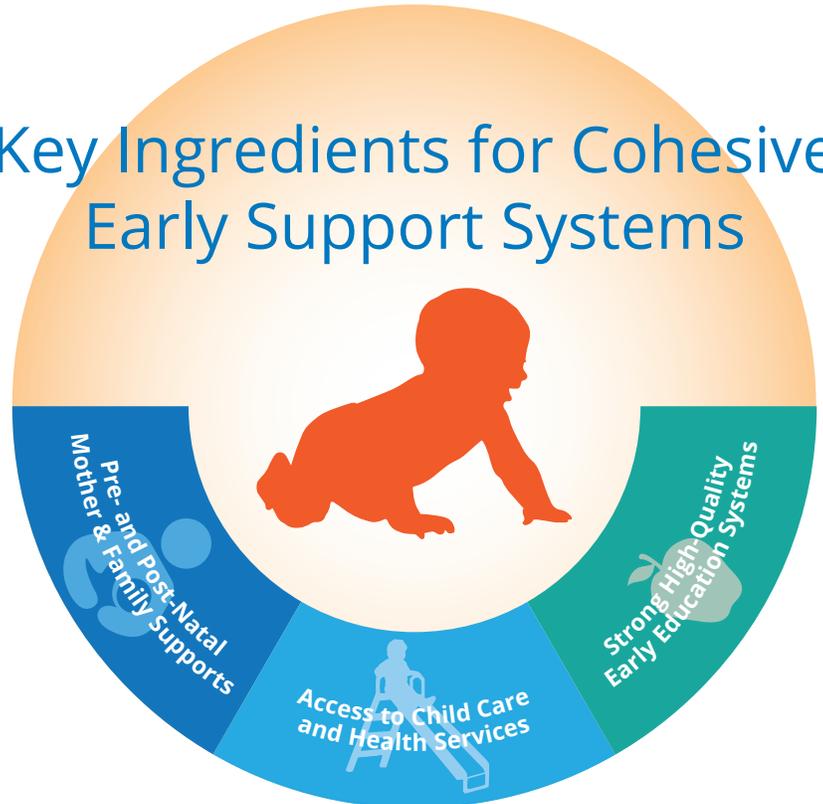




Building High Quality Early Support Systems for Children and Families

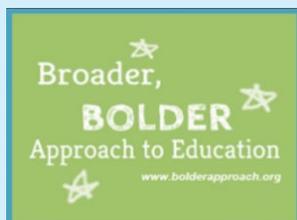
A GUIDE FOR STATE POLICY

Key Ingredients for Cohesive Early Support Systems



The first years of a child's life are the most formative. Research shows the importance of investing in young children and their families to foster early brain development and to lay a strong foundation for later learning. Increasing recognition that learning and achievement gaps start long before kindergarten continues to spur public interest in building early support systems.

National
**Opportunity
to Learn**
CAMPAIGN
www.otlcampaign.org



www.boldapproach.org

**OPPORTUNITY
ACTION**
Demanding equity & excellence in public education
www.opportunityaction.org

This guide can help policymakers build on recent state momentum for a more family-centered concept of early education, focusing on early support systems for children and families. "Early supports" include many factors that boost child development and promote healthy families, including pre-k access, safe and supportive home conditions, positive school environments and tailored academic, social, emotional and health supports. Such investments enhance brain development, language skills, relationships with peers and adults and student learning.

Download the guide at: <http://bit.ly/eceguide>

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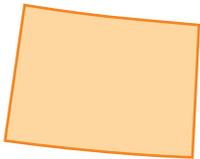
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State Policy Strategies that Help Children and Families to Thrive

COMPREHENSIVE PRE- AND POST-NATAL MATERNAL AND INFANT SUPPORT

Colorado



The Nurse Home Visitor Program Act pairs trained nurses with high-risk mothers early in their pregnancy to conduct ongoing visits through the child's second birthday. Nurses educate low-income, first-time pregnant women on child development, health and safety, connect them to community providers, and help them plan for their economic well-being.

ENHANCING QUALITY OF AND ACCESS TO CHILD CARE

Illinois



Unlicensed or “exempt” providers are small, mostly home-based child care providers that tend to serve the youngest and highest-risk children. In order to increase quality of care, Illinois has a tiered training program within its state Quality Rating and Improvement System to allow exempt providers to access increasing levels of training and move towards licensing.

BUILDING A STRONG, HIGH QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SYSTEM

Oklahoma



Oklahoma's Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program serves 74 percent of the state's four-year-olds. The program's stability and quality can be attributed to the fact that it is embedded in state education law and managed through district k-12 education systems with pre-k teachers paid at the same level as their counterparts in the k-12 system and supported with professional development.

CULTIVATING COHESIVE EARLY SUPPORT SYSTEMS: BUILDING PUBLIC WILL AND STRONG COALITIONS

Arkansas



The Invest Early in Education Coalition, formed in 2002, has played a key role in building support for Arkansas Better Chance, the state's nationally recognized pre-k program. The Coalition has convened a steering committee of early education professionals and advocates from across the state and worked with legislators to invest in the program and expand it to reach thousands of children.

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