

Good Start, Grow Smart Early Childhood Initiative

PIECES Advisory Committee
Charleston, West Virginia

Barbara L. Tayman
National Child Care Information Center
September 13, 2002

Good Start, Grow Smart

Designed to help States and local communities strengthen early learning for young children by:

- ***Strengthening Head Start*** – ensuring that every Head Start center assesses standards of learning in early literacy, language, and numeracy skills.

Good Start, Grow Smart

- ***Partnering with States to Improve Early Childhood Education*** – asking States to develop quality criteria for early childhood education
- ***Providing Information to Teachers, Caregivers and Parents*** – establishing partnerships as part of a broad public awareness campaign targeted toward parents, early childhood educators, child care providers and others

Strengthening Head Start

- Every Head Start child will be assessed on the Head Start standards of learning in early literacy, language, and numeracy three times a year to assess the progress and accomplishments of all enrolled children.

Strengthening Head Start

- All Head Start programs will participate in a series of intensive early literacy training activities offered over the next year.
- In the summer of 2002, 2500 Head Start teachers and child care providers attended a four-day training session to become Early Literacy Specialists.

Strengthening Head Start

- Early Literacy Specialists will train other classroom teachers in their respective Head Start programs. The goal is to train every Head Start teacher in the country by the end of next year.
- There will be follow-up mentoring and coaching of individual teachers.

Partnering with States to Improve Early Learning

- States will be required, in their Child Care and Development Fund State Plan, to include quality-related criteria to address the following goals:
 - Early Learning Guidelines - Voluntary guidelines on literacy, language, and pre-reading skills that align with State K-12 standards.

Partnering with States to Improve Early Learning

- Professional Development - Plan for offering education and training activities to child care and pre-school teachers and administrators.
- Program Coordination - Plan for coordinating at least four early childhood programs. These may include CCDF, Head Start, public school programs, and TANF.

Partnering with States to Improve Early Learning

- To give States more flexibility in funding their quality criteria, they will be able to increase the amount of State Pre-K funds that can be used to match Federal child care funds from 20 percent to 30 percent.

Partnering with States to Improve Early Learning

- Early Childhood Educator Academies
Department of Education will host regional Early Childhood Educator Academies to share research on early childhood instructional practices and professional development that promote cognitive development.

Partnering with States to Improve Early Learning

- The Academies will also provide guidance on developing or strengthening early childhood voluntary guidelines.
- State agencies who serve preschool children and their families, such as department of health and human services, department of education and R&R agencies will be invited to attend.

Partnering with States to Improve Early Learning

- Early Childhood Educator Academies
 - November 6-7 – Detroit, MI
 - November 12-13 – Albuquerque, NM
 - November 14-15 – Los Angeles, CA
 - November 18-19 – Miami, FL
 - December 2-3 – St. Louis, MO

Partnering with States to Improve Early Learning

- The U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services will provide guidance to States on how to coordinate early childhood services and programs to avoid duplication of services and improve children's learning as they transition from Pre-K to elementary school.

Partnering with States to Improve Early Learning

- NCCIC Technical Assistance to States – A Technical Assistance Specialist for Literacy and School Readiness and Accountability will provide coordination among the Child Care Bureau, Federal Regional Offices, other Federal partners and State child care agencies.

Partnering with States to Improve Early Learning

- Technical assistance and resources will be provided for child care administrators to:
 - Develop collaborations and partnerships at the State and local levels;
 - Create and implement common early learning guidelines and staff development goals across programs;

Partnering with States to Improve Early Learning

- Ensure flexible access across early childhood programs;
- Provide the professional development necessary to achieve these goals; and
- Ensure a successful transition for all children from early childhood programs into elementary schools.