

## Orange County Child Care Plan 2019-2024

The Orange County Child Care Plan is developed and approved by the Orange County Child Care and Development Planning Council. Although the Planning Council develops this Child Care Plan, it is a countywide plan, rather than a plan for the Planning Council alone. The Goals and Objectives described in the Child Care Plan are intended to work in conjunction with one another rather than stand alone.

Goals and Objectives	Strategies
<p><b>Goal 1: Increase Access to High Quality Child Care and Development Programs, and Expanded Learning for all Children.</b></p>	
<p><u>Objectives:</u></p>	
<p>(A) High quality, affordable, developmentally appropriate learning experiences and environments are sufficiently available to meet the needs of all children and families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conduct a needs assessment to determine unmet child care and expanded learning needs, including an analysis of various funding sources.</li> <li>● Examine birth rate trends to predict child care and expanded learning needs.</li> <li>● Work collaboratively with stakeholders (e.g., providers, parents, etc.) to address unmet needs with a particular focus on availability of infant care and child care with non-traditional hours.</li> <li>● Explore options to increase access to affordable, high-quality care.</li> </ul>

(B) Education, coaching, and training are available for caregivers, teachers, and other professionals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Convene annual meeting of agencies that provide training to discuss current and planned training and to identify additional training needs.</li> <li>● Develop a system where child care providers can access information about all available training.</li> <li>● Utilize existing data and collect new data to determine education and training content and service delivery needs.</li> </ul>
(C) Families are empowered to choose high-quality early and expanded learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Educate families on the importance of high quality early and expanded learning programs and how to find and identify these high quality programs.</li> <li>● Assist families to connect with high quality early and expanded learning services to meet their needs.</li> <li>● Educate families about child development and their role in optimal development.</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 2: Improve Quality Early and Expanded Learning Programs.</b>	
<u>Objectives:</u>	

<p>(A) Formal and informal care environments and education practices reach the highest standards of quality including developmentally appropriate practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Support the coordination and implementation of higher education programs to meet workforce needs and requirements.</li> <li>● Promote the use of quality standards that support optimal development, health, and safety.</li> <li>● Provide training opportunities regarding effective program management and leadership strategies.</li> <li>● Increase participation in Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) across all types of early learning settings, with a particular focus on private and family child care programs.</li> </ul>
<p>(B) All settings provide effective transitions across and within programs, schools, and systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop strategies to facilitate vertical collaboration across all settings.</li> <li>● Identify and highlight successful models of transition.</li> </ul>
<p>(C) Programs, schools, and communities offer opportunities for family engagement and leadership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify and highlight a successful model for family engagement and leadership.</li> <li>● Work with community partners to explore alternative methods to reach parents and families.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Goal 3: Increase Equity</b>  Increase equity by using differentiated strategies to address the unique needs across populations.</p>	
<p><u>Objectives:</u></p>	
<p>(A) Readiness and developmental gaps are reduced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Utilize data (e.g., Early Development Index) to identify readiness and developmental gaps.</li> <li>● Advocate for programs and funding that address readiness and developmental gaps.</li> </ul>
<p>(B) Early and expanded learning professionals are well-trained and well-compensated across programs and settings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase opportunities for professional development for all providers.</li> <li>● Train program directors in effective recruitment and retention strategies.</li> <li>● Increase opportunities for appreciation and recognition of early and expanded learning professionals.</li> <li>● Advocate for just compensation for early and expanded learning professionals.</li> </ul>
<p>(C) All families have help to access preventive, timely, and coordinated services and support according to their needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strengthen relationships and align services between Family Resource Centers, community based organizations (CBOs), and early and expanded learning communities to connect families to resources.</li> <li>● Increase advocacy efforts for developmental screenings across multiple settings including</li> </ul>

during medical visits and through early and expanded learning programs.

- Increase access to services and supports for high-need children and families and special populations.