High-Quality Early Childhood Education: Policy and Practice

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High-Quality Early Childhood Education: Policy and Practice

Expert Presenters:

Laura Bornfreund, deputy director, Early Education Initiative, New America Foundation

Debi Mathias, director, QRIS National Learning Network

Related Stories:

States View Teacher Quality as Pre-K Rating Factor

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An on-demand archive of this webinar will be available at www.edweek.org/go/webinar in less than 24 hrs.
Laura Bornfreund

High-Quality Early Childhood Education: Policy and Practice

Early Education Initiative, New America
What do we know about the benefits of pre-K?
More than 120 studies in the past 5 decades have found overall:

- Substantial positive benefits on cognition
- Positive results for children’s social skills
- Short- and long-term effects

*Teachers College Record Volume 112 Number 3, 2010, p. 579-620*
*http://www.tcrecord.org ID Number: 15440*
Most important quality elements

• Strong teacher-child interactions
• Evidence-based curricula
• Support for teachers through coaching or mentoring

Investing in Our Future: The Evidence Base on Preschool Education: http://goo.gl/VGJ9Db
Other elements that matter

• Ratios and class size
• Teacher education and experience
• Hours per day
• Comprehensive services

Investing in Our Future: The Evidence Base on Preschool Education: http://goo.gl/VGJ9Db
Examples of high-quality programs

- Boston’s pre-K program:
  http://earlyed.newamerica.net/blogposts/2013/study_highlights_significant_benefits_of_boston_public_schools_pre_k_program-82793

- New Jersey’s Abbott Preschool program:
  http://nieer.org/sites/nieer/files/APPLES%205th%20Grad%e.pdf

- Oklahoma’s Universal pre-K program:
On Sustaining Pre-K Gains

Moving from…

This to This
Why think PreK-3rd?

• To sustain the gains, render ‘fade-out’ defunct

• To avoid redundancy and gaps
  • Creating a continuous, unbroken path for children’s learning, building from one grade to another

• To improve how teachers interact with young children, setting the foundation for success in later grades
  • Building high-quality classroom interactions – DAP, playful learning approaches & social-emotional learning coupled with cognitive development
New America Education

BEYOND SUBPRIME LEARNING

Accelerating Progress in Early Education

edcentr.al/beyondsubprime
Amplify Assessment proudly sponsors:

High-Quality Early Childhood Education: Policy and Practice
Second Generation Quality Rating and Improvement Systems
Debi Mathias
Why have a QRIS?

- Consumer Perspective
- Provider/Program Perspective
- Policymaker Perspective
A Systems Approach

Many systems approaches available; Here is the Early Childhood Systems Working Group framework, which focuses on:

• Outcomes
• Necessary Systems and Services
• Values and Principles
• Core Strategies
What is the Vision for QRIS? What Levers are used to progress to that vision?

- Use of Logic Models to demonstrate inputs and outcomes
- How is the implementation science being used to provide a conceptual framework?
- What does the ‘end’ look like?
- What are best and promising practices?
Innovation in the States
Racial/Cultural/Linguistic Responsiveness

• States referenced in RTT/ELC inclusion of specific measures related to cultural competence in their QRIS
• Develop training, materials and other supports in multiple languages
• A “diversity” category in the standards
• Financial incentive for DLL teachers
• Specific supports, strategies and professional development for teachers working with DLL children
Goals of the QRIS – Zaslow/Tout
(QRIS NLN Meeting July 2013)

- Improved child outcomes and school readiness
- Professionalization of the ECE Workforce and Instructional Leaders
- Improving ECE as a System
- Enhancing Family Outcomes
Trending QRIS Revisions

• Deepening the work from addressing global quality to improving teaching and learning
• Increasing provider participation and supports needed to improve quality
• Use of data and data based systems in implementation and improvement
• Building on cross sector participation
• Better alignment from Birth – 3rd grade
Data, Evaluation and Research

- Use of integrated data systems as evaluation/research/accountability tools
- Studying use and appropriateness of assessment tools
- Studying impact of QRIS on children’s school readiness
CQI at all Levels of the System

To get better and better at getting better and better...

The organizations that will truly excel in the future will be the organizations that discover how to tap people’s commitment and capacity to learn at all levels in an organization.”

Peter Senge
For More information

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What is mCLASS:CIRCLE?

Early childhood assessment software for pre-K children

- CIRCLE is a pre-K assessment, developed by Dr. Susan Landry and the Children’s Learning Institute (CLI).
- mCLASS:CIRCLE combines the validity of CIRCLE with the ease of the mCLASS mobile platform.

mCLASS:CIRCLE includes assessments and checklists to provide a comprehensive picture of student development across these areas, which also cover all 11 Head Start domains:

Direct observational assessments
- Letter Recognition
- Vocabulary
- Phonological Awareness
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies

Observational checklists
- Social and Emotional Development
- Book and Print Awareness
- Early Writing
- Approaches to Learning
- Creative Arts Expression
- Physical Development and Health
mCLASS:CIRCLE is research-based.

Designed to provide preschool teachers with the information they need

- Unlike other preschool assessments, which focus on qualitative measures, CIRCLE uses quantitative, research-based assessments.
- Use standardized, criterion-referenced measures for screening and progress monitoring
- Reliability and validity supported by research studies over the last 5 years
- Recently adopted by the state of South Carolina as part of their Readiness Assessment Program; used in hundreds of Texas classrooms for more than 5 years
Advantages of mCLASS:CIRCLE administration

mCLASS:CIRCLE assessment software supports educators.

- All your results—in one place
- Saves time
- Increases reliability and validity
- Efficient
- Provides immediate results
- mCLASS Home web portal/tools provide:
  - Reports
  - Grouping tool
  - Data-driven activities
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