

What is Home Visiting?

Home visiting programs are important during a child's early stages of life as they provide families with individual educational support with early attachment and knowledge about their child's growth and development.

Research demonstrates that voluntary home visiting programs improve birth outcomes and maternal and infant health. Home visiting increases parent-child interaction, improves school readiness, supports early detection of developmental delays and promotes coordination and referral to other community resources.

Home visiting is a multi-generational approach that has the power to positively change the trajectory of an entire family.



Home Visitor and Supervisor Support

Grounded in a strengths-based approach, the Start Early Home Visiting Implementation Hub (the "Hub") supports new and experienced home visiting programs. Technical assistance, training and professional development opportunities support the delivery of high quality home visiting and family support services, with the intent to produce desired impacts and improved outcomes for children and families.

Across all home visiting programs, consistent practices must be in place to ensure the implementation of high quality programs that create confident, competent home visitors and supervisors and effectively support families in achieving their goals. Necessary supports include:

- **Technical Assistance:** regular, personalized support to help programs implement best practices through a mutual goal-setting process and supports that are customized to the program's specific priorities, including consultation, resource connection, reflective supports or observation and coaching.
- **Peer Learning:** collaborative environments for home visiting professionals to participate in open-ended discussions centered around brainstorming, reflection and communities of support.
- **Training and Professional Development:** skill building fundamentals for home visiting assessments such as developmental screenings, mental health screenings and parent-child interaction.
- **Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI):** access to tools and resources that measurably improve program goals and ensure high quality service delivery. CQI supports include customized, individual coaching through a specific project, with review of emerging lessons learned across programs. Integrating CQI tools and frameworks improve quality and outcomes over time.

Home visiting programs of all models receive individualized supports for the following topics:

- Staff hiring, onboarding & retention
- Best practices in family engagement
- Family recruitment & enrollment
- Data collection to inform decision making
- Building referral relationships & early childhood system connections
- Supportive organizational policies & procedures
- Technical & adaptive skills in staff supervision, reflective practice & team culture

Programs implementing Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, and ParentChild+ also receive specific supports on implementing their program with fidelity to model requirements.

Serving as supportive thought partners to develop or strengthen program implementation processes, knowledge application and service delivery, the Hub celebrates and explores successes while working through challenges by modeling principles of reflective supervision and parallel process.

Guiding Values for the Hub

Our guiding values lay the foundation to best support home visiting programs in their work with families. They reflect our ongoing commitment to ensure the highest-quality and most inclusive services, instilling a culture that respects and honors the families we serve.

- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:** Recognize that culture shapes values, beliefs and behaviors, and honor culturally preferred practices in service delivery; recognize the impacts of systemic racism and white privilege on families, home visiting programs and systems.
- **Trauma-Informed:** Provide psychologically safe working relationships centered around transparency, predictability and choice.
- **Strengths-Based:** Recognize, honor and elevate the inherent strengths and expertise of programs, supervisors, home visitors and families; ground all technical assistance in a strengths-based approach.
- **Quality:** Leverage experiences from the field and research to advance best practices in implementation.
- **Parallel Process:** Practitioners with lived experience integrate best practices in parenting and home visiting in their work.