Indiana: Building Capacity for High Quality Pre-Kindergarten for All Children

2014 Indiana Family Impact Seminar

November 18, 2014

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UNIVERSITY

Overview

Building Capacity in Early Childhood Care and Education for all Hoosiers--

- Features of a Strong Statewide ECE System
- Indiana's Accomplishments
- Indiana's Challenges-- Current & Future

Features of a High-Quality ECE System

- ECE Services are coordinated and aligned
- Evidence-based quality standards
- Performance is measured; Data used to inform, improve, innovate
- Families are engaged; ECE system is available to all families
- High quality, available, and affordable ECE services for all children
- Early learning system is cost-effective, builds on existing resources and strengths

Indiana: Strong State Leadership & Collaboration

- Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning
- Family Social Services Administration
- Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children
- Head Start
- Indiana General Assembly
- Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral
- United Way
- Businesses
- Foundations
- Community coalitions
- Colleges, universities

Early Learning Advisory Committee

- Established by Indiana General Assembly in 2013
- 8 members appointed by Governor Pence
- Mission:
  - Assess availability, affordability, and quality of early childhood programs statewide
  - Make best practice recommendations for ways to improve and expand early childhood education
- Statewide needs assessment, service coordination, teacher preparation, early learning pilot programs

ELAC Definition of Kindergarten Readiness

"In Indiana we work together so that every child can develop to his or her fullest potential – socially, emotionally, physically, cognitively and academically. Through growth in all of these domains, the child will become a healthy, capable, competent and powerful learner."

Indiana Foundations:
Early Learning Guidelines

- Suggested skills for infants, toddlers, preschoolers → Kindergarten readiness
- Linked to Indiana Academic Standards in Elementary School
- Domains: Social, Physical Health/Growth; Arts; Language/Literacy; Math; Science; Social Studies
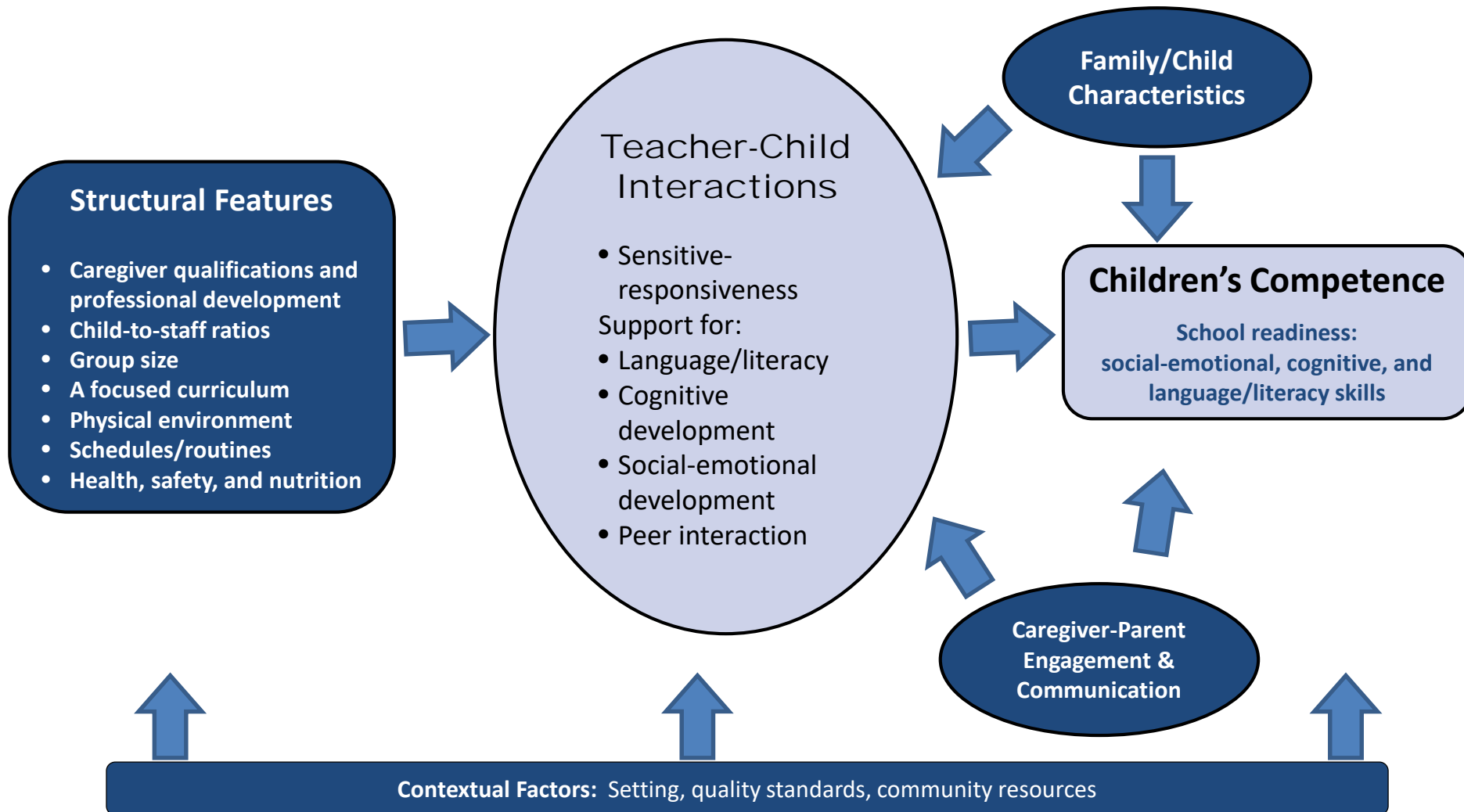- Teaching/learning suggestions for parents and early childhood teachers

Indiana's Child Care Quality Rating and Improvement System

- Research-validated quality rating system

- Highest voluntary participation rates in the U.S.A.

- Training/technical assistance for child care providers

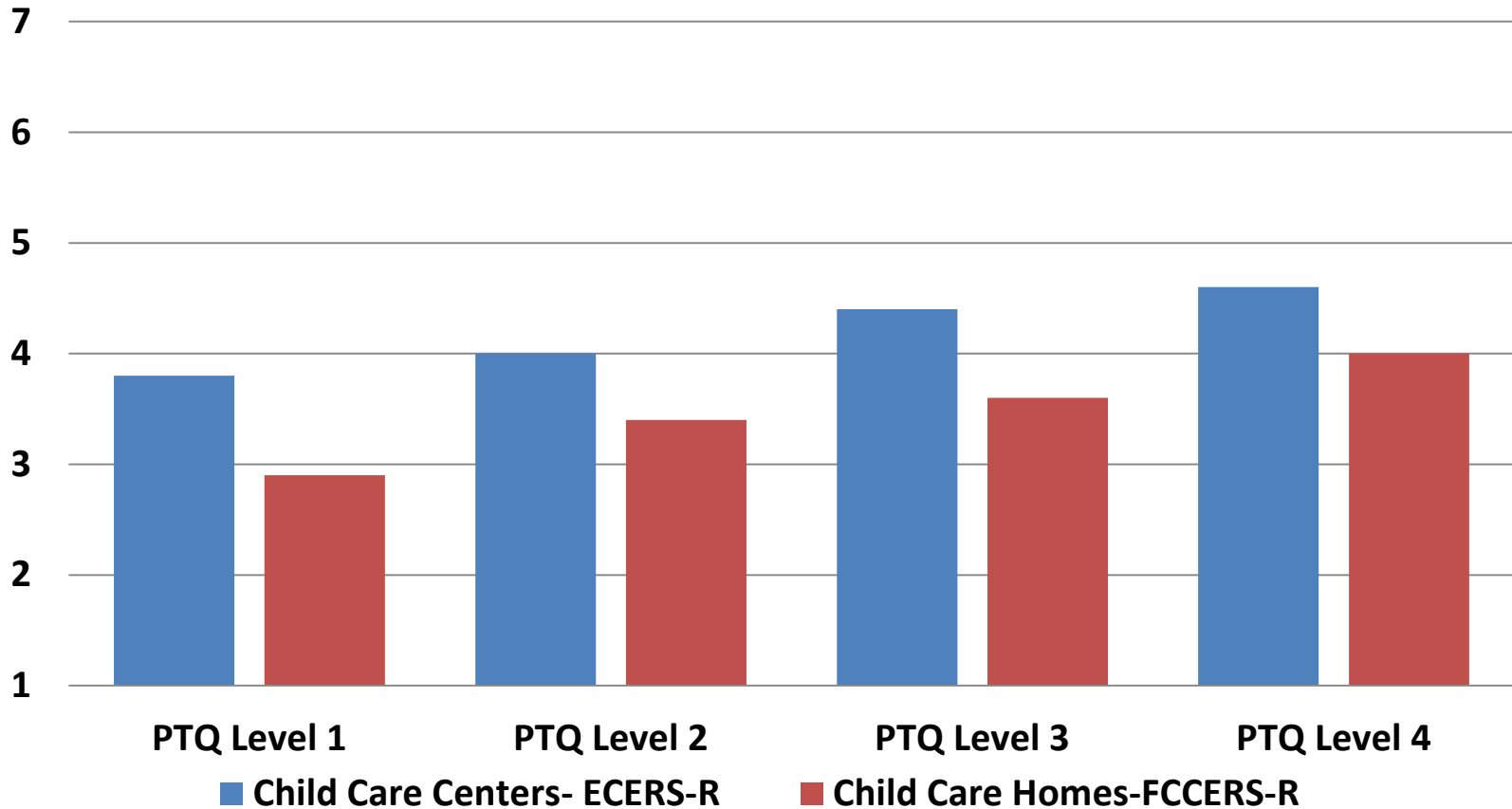- Data driven, continuous quality improvement

What is ECE "Quality?"

Structural Features

- **Caregiver qualifications and professional development**
- **Child-to-staff ratios**
- **Group size**
- **A focused curriculum**
- **Physical environment**
- **Schedules/routines**
- **Health, safety, and nutrition**

Teacher-Child Interactions

- Sensitive-responsiveness

Support for:
- Language/literacy
- Cognitive development
- Social-emotional development
- Peer interaction

Family/Child Characteristics

Children's Competence

School readiness: social-emotional, cognitive, and language/literacy skills

Caregiver-Parent Engagement & Communication

Contextual Factors: Setting, quality standards, community resources

(Adapted from Cavadel, Monahan, Tarullo, & Atkins-Burnett (2014). The Q-CCIIT Observational Measure: Identifying Strengths and Challenges in Responsive Caregiving . Mathematica Policy Research.)

Purdue Research Validation (2011): Overall Child Care Quality by PTQ Level

Legend: Child Care Centers- ECERS-R (blue); Child Care Homes-FCCERS-R (red)

(Source: Elicker, Langill, Ruprecht, Lewsader, & Anderson (2011). *Evaluation of "Paths to QUALITY," Indiana's child care quality rating and improvement system: Final report.* West Lafayette, IN: Center for Families, Purdue University.)

Purdue PTQ Evaluation: 2012-2016

- **Young Children:** Does participation in quality-rated child care lead to low-income children's early learning, well-being, and readiness for school?

- **Child Care Providers:** What are the factors that lead to advancement-- or not?

- **Parents:** Are parents of young children aware of PTQ? Do they use it to inform their child care decisions?

Accessible Information for Indiana Parents

- Strong statewide child care resource & referral network

- User-friendly, personal or online information

- Focus: How to recognize, find, and afford high quality early education and care

Free Child Care Search ™

Indiana Early Childhood Teachers

- Goal: Developmentally-appropriate, effective education and care for all young children
- Core knowledge and competencies
- Career ladder for ECE teachers
- Financial support for teachers to advance their education (TEACH)
- Indiana early childhood teacher license
  Pre-kindergarten through Grade 3
  (Currently available: 14 Indiana colleges/universities)
- Indiana Early Childhood Higher Education Inventory (underway)

Current Challenges

- Ensure state-supported ECE programs provide safe, healthy, high quality services
- Ensure expanded ECE programs are of high quality
- Continue to improve PTQ quality standards
- Coordinate and integrate data systems
- Many children in unlicensed care of unknown quality

Future Challenges

- Continue to improve the birth to five ECE system

- Focus particular attention: development of children prenatal to 3 years

- Make sure Indiana ECE programs reach a critical "threshold of quality"

- Strengthen teacher preparation & development → compensate qualified teachers

- Finance a high quality ECE system using blended individual, community, state, federal, public, private funding sources

Resources

- Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee Annual Report (2014). http://www.in.gov/fssa/files/Final_ELAC_Report_06_30_14.pdf
- 2014 QRIS Online Compendium. http://qriscompendium.org/
- Indiana Paths to QUALITY Evaluation Reports and Briefs. Purdue University Center for Families. www.cfs.purdue.edu/cff/publications/publications.html
- Bornfreund et al. New American Education Policy Brief. (2014). Beyond Subprime Learning: Accelerating Progress in Early Education. http://newamerica.net/publications/policy/beyond_subprime_learning
- Yoshikawa et al. (2013). Investing in Our Future: The Evidence Base on Early Childhood Education. http://fcd-us.org/resources/evidence-base-preschool
- Lahti, M., Elicker, J., Zellman, G., & Fiene, R. (in press). Approaches to validating child care quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS): Results from two states with similar QRIS type designs. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly.* http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2014.04.005
- Elicker, J., Ruprecht, K.M., Langill, C., Lewsader, J., Anderson, T. & Brizzi, M. (2013). Paths to QUALITY™: Collaborative evaluation of a new child care quality rating and improvement system. *Early Education and Development, 24*, 42-62. doi: 10.1080/10409289.2013.736127.