



*FSU Partners for a Healthy Baby
PFCE Framework Alignment
Reference Guide*

Florida State University

Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy

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Head Start Performance Standards and the Parent, Family & Community Engagement Framework (PFCE)

The research-based FSU *Partners for a Healthy Baby* curriculum has been widely used by many home visiting programs to achieve positive outcomes. Early Head Start agencies comprise a significant portion of the programs utilizing the *Partners* curriculum and we strive to serve their unique needs well.

Current Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) require that programs operating under Office of Head Start funding:

- Integrate parent and family engagement strategies into all systems and program services to support family well-being and promote children's learning and development §1302.50 (a).
- Recognize parents as their children's primary teachers and nurturers and implement intentional strategies to engage parents in their children's learning and development and support parent-child relationships, including specific strategies for father engagement §1302.50(b)1.
- Collaborate with families in a family partnership process that identifies needs, interests, strengths, goals, and services and resources that support family well-being, including family safety, health, and economic stability §1302.50(b)3.
- Promote shared responsibility with parents for children's early learning and development, and implement family engagement strategies that are designed to foster parental confidence and skills in promoting children's learning and development §1302.51(a).
- Offer opportunities for parents to participate in a research-based parenting curriculum that builds on parents' knowledge and offers parents the opportunity to practice parenting skills to promote children's learning and development §1302.51(b).
- Implement intake and family assessment procedures to identify family strengths and needs related to the family engagement outcomes as described in the Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework, including family well-being, parent-child relationships, families as lifelong educators, families as learners, family engagement in transitions, family connections to peers and the local community, and families as advocates and leaders § 1302.52(b).
- Help families achieve identified individualized family engagement outcomes §1302.52(c)2.

Partners for a Healthy Baby – PFCE Alignment Resources

Based on these requirements, FSU *Partners for a Healthy Baby* curriculum has compiled a comprehensive PFCE Alignment crosswalk for your use in planning, training, review, and implementation. The majority of Purposes support multiple PFCE outcomes due to the interconnected nature of elements within the family system and *Partner's* emphasis on spotlighting these connections for parents and staff. For example, a Purpose aimed at addressing postpartum depression can speak to the outcomes of Family Well Being, Positive Parent-Child Relationships, and Family Connection to Peers and Community. Another Purpose may be largely child development focused supporting both the outcomes of Families as Lifelong Educators and Families as Advocates and Leaders. The PHB/PFCE Alignment Crosswalk lists all the PHB Purposes and the corresponding PFCE outcomes they support in spreadsheet format and is available on the *Partners* website.

As the *Partners* curriculum has launched our revised, digital format we aim to provide you with new, innovative electronic resources to support the integration of the PFCE Framework within your daily use of the curriculum and for on-going individual planning and review. Be sure to visit the *Partners for a Healthy Baby* website for the latest digital resources.

Alignment Process

As explained in the *Partners for a Healthy Baby User's Guide*, the Detailed Information Pages (DIP) and complementary Parent Handouts are intended to be used together to ensure comprehensive coverage of the *Purpose of Visit*. As such, the PFCE outcomes listed under each *Partners* curriculum Purpose are reflective of the sum information between these resources; some outcomes may be address in the DIP, while others are covered more specifically in the Parent Handout. This approach to coding was an intentional choice made to support the use of the *Partners* training to fidelity, as it was designed, as well as to reduce redundancy and improve clarity. The intent was to create an alignment resource that was rich in information, as well as accessible and easy to understand.

Partners for a Healthy Baby also describes the Detailed Information Pages and Parent Handouts as prompts and discussion starters- they open the door to deeper conversations, play experiences, and growth in understanding. As such, the alignment reflects a broad coding approach; when a skill, activity or topic was addressed or suggested, whether as the primary focus or a secondary example, within a given Purpose, the corresponding PFCE outcome(s) are included. This acknowledges the Home Visitor's role in tailoring or individualizing discussions based on the needs of each child and family on their caseload.

You will notice that the broad PFCE Family Outcome category of *Family Wellbeing* has been subdivided within the PHB/PFCE Alignment Spreadsheet. As this category incorporates such a

wide variety of topics, everything from accidental injury prevention to nutrition education to financial literacy, we deemed it best to follow the themes of safety, health, and financial security outlined in the *Understanding Family Engagement Outcomes: Research to Practice* series available through ECLKC. The PHB curriculum features extensive content promoting the outcome goals of *Parents and Families are Safe*, *Parents and Families are Healthy*, and *Parents and Families are Financially Secure*; we believe the use of these subdivisions improves the functionality of the alignment resources. The PHB Topic reference is also included on the PHB/PFCE Alignment Crosswalk as this provides helpful insight, particularly in regards to the *Parents and Families are Healthy* subcategory that remains quite broad.

Another PFCE Family Outcome category that required additional consideration was *Families as Advocates and Leaders*. The Partners curriculum, while often used by Early Head Start grantees, is not program or community specific; as such topics like participation in Policy Council are not directly addressed. Rather we recognize that advocacy and leadership are skills that must be nurtured over time through confidence and competence building. PHB purposes that call the family to reflect on their own goals and progress, to share what they have observed about their child, and to identify changes they hope to see in their community all support the development of skills in this PFCF domain. While they may seem like baby steps far removed from the concrete examples of the outcome such as serving on a board or committee, many of the families served by the PHB curriculum need to hear that they have a unique perspective worth sharing and the capacity to improve their circumstances first within their homes and personal life, then extending out to the community. When a parent is called on to be the expert, sharing their insight while completing a reflective exercise like the *My Ten Month Old* handout, in the context of the safe parent-home visitor relationship they are stretching and flexing the muscles of advocacy. Continually assessing and reorienting the steps they'll take towards a goal they've set, a key component of many purposes within the Family Development PHB category, generates a sense of self determination necessary for leadership. We have seen time and again how added together these activities allow parents to step into their role as advocates and leaders.

We believe that the home visiting model provides a unique opportunity to nurture the distinct and powerful impact of parents/primary caregivers as their child's first teacher. When parents are empowered to make better choices for themselves and their family as a whole the child receives a direct benefit and their developmental goals are supported. We hope you find these PFCE Framework resources helpful in your program's pursuit of strengthening and improving family outcomes for those you serve.