



FSU Partners for a Healthy Baby ELOF Alignment Reference Guide

Florida State University

Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy

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Head Start Performance Standards and the Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF)

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 select and use curriculum that:

- Aligns with the *Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF): Ages Birth to Five* (ELOF) §1302.32(a)(1)(ii) and §1302.35(d)1(ii).
- Is sufficiently content rich to promote measurable progress toward developmental and learning outlined in the ELOF §1302.32(a)(1)(ii) and §1302.35(d)1(ii).
- Helps staff provide responsive care, effective teaching practices, and an organized learning environment that promotes children’s growth in the developmental progressions described in the ELOF §1302.31(a), §1302.31(b)(1)(ii), §1302.35(c), and §1302.35(e)(2)(ii).

Additionally, according to the HSPPS, programs must ensure that parents have the opportunity to learn about and provide feedback on selected curricula and instructional materials used in the program §1302.34(b)(4).¹

¹ Early Learning Outcomes Framework Implementation Toolkit; Implementation Guide: Using the ELOF to inform Curriculum Planning and Implementation.

Partners for a Healthy Baby – ELOF Alignment Reference Guide

Based on these requirements, FSU *Partners for a Healthy Baby* curriculum has compiled a comprehensive Alignment Reference Guide for your use in planning, training, review, and implementation. Within this guide you will find the following resources:

- **PHB Implementation Guide:** This portion of the reference guide was created using the *Alignment Tool for Curriculum and the ELOF* included in the Early Learning Outcomes Framework Implementation Toolkit: Implementation Guide. The *PHB Implementation Guide* provides information about the extensive ways *Partners* curriculum materials support the skills, behaviors, and concepts of each of the ELOF sub-domains. The descriptive format of this portion of the Reference Guide makes it an ideal resource for use in training of staff, policy council, governing body, and parents. It paints a rich picture of the ways in which the curriculum, and the teaching practices described within, support age appropriate learning across all five of the essential learning domains and Infant-Toddler sub-domains of the ELOF specifically.
- **PHB/ELOF Alignment Crosswalk:** The majority of Purposes support multiple ELOF outcome goals due to the interconnected nature of elements within the child development and *Partner's* emphasis on spotlighting these connections for parents and staff. For example, a Purpose aimed at addressing emergent literacy can speak to the goals within the essential learning domains of Social Emotional Development, Language and Literacy, and Cognitive Development. Another Purpose may be largely parenting focused while supporting both the outcomes within Approaches to Learning and Social Emotional Development. The PHB/ELOF Alignment Crosswalk lists all the PHB Purposes and the corresponding ELOF domains, sub-domains, and specific child outcome goals 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 several new, innovative electronic resources to support the integration of the ELOF goals 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 ELOF goals listed under each *Partners* curriculum Purpose are reflective of the sum information between these resources; some goals 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 ELOF goal(s) are included. This acknowledges both the interwoven nature of child development, as well as the Home Visitor's role in tailoring or individualizing discussions based on the needs of each child and family on their caseload.

Finally you will notice that while some of the DIP's and Parent Handouts, particularly in the *Partners* categories of Family Development and Family Health, are largely parent-focused they have been coded to reflect a corresponding child-centered ELOF goal. 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. This is particularly true for behaviors surrounding healthy choices and the cultivation of a positive social emotional climate within the home. Additionally, many parent-centered Purposes play a key role in the creation of a responsive home learning environment for the child. *Partners for a Healthy Baby* reinforces the importance of caregiver modeling in these areas and is considered to be aligned when the topics covered with adults have a direct impact on the child's likelihood to progress towards ELOF goals.