



Promoting Family Engagement in Early Head Start Programs through Collaboration with Community Partners [Version of the Slides for the CD-Rom]

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Agenda

- ✓ Who Is the National Head Start Association?
- ✓ What Is the Scientific Evidence for Promoting Parental and Family Engagement?
- ✓ What Is the History of Parental and Family Engagement in Early Head Start?

Agenda (Continued)

- ✓ Which Head Start Policies Encourage Early Head Start Programs to Partner with Head Start, Child Care, and Other Community Partners?
- ✓ What Are the Results of a Recent National Survey of Early Head Start Program Directors?



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Agenda (Continued)

- ✓ Question and Answer Session
- ✓ Resources and Information

Who Is the National Head Start Association?

- The National Head Start Association (NHSA) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit membership organization that believes that every child, regardless of circumstances of birth, has the ability to succeed in life if given the opportunity that Head Start and Early Head Start (collectively “Head Start”) offer to children and their families.

Who Is NHSA? (Continued)

- NHSA is the national voice of more than 1.1 million children, 225,000 staff, and 2,800 Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the United States.



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NHSA's Vision

NHSA's Vision

- ***Because we believe that***
 - ❖ *All children should reach their full potential,*
 - ❖ *Every child can succeed,*
 - ❖ *We can impact the success of “at-risk” children, and*
 - ❖ *Quality early education fundamentally transforms children and families*

Our Vision Is

- ***To lead.** To be the untiring voice that will not be quiet until every vulnerable child is served with the Head Start model of support for the whole child, the family and community.*
- ***To advocate.** To work diligently for policy and institutional changes that ensure all vulnerable children and families have what they need to succeed.*



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NHSA's Mission



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NHSA Mission

- **Our mission is to coalesce, inspire and support the Head Start field as a leader in early childhood development and education.**

NHSA Mission (Continued)

- **We are compelled to fulfill this mission by the promise of all the possible outcomes:**
 - One powerful, united Head Start voice;
 - A collegial, collaborative Head Start field, one that is a valuable partner and resource to early childhood development and education;

NHSA Mission (Continued)

- Nonpartisan support of increased Federal commitment to Head Start; and, ultimately
- Healthier, empowered children and families and stronger, more vibrant communities.



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What Is the Scientific Evidence for Promoting Parental and Family Engagement?

- National Studies
- Small Studies

What Is the History of Parental and Family Engagement in Head Start?

- “Maximum Feasible Participation”
- Policy Councils and Policy Committees
- Birth of Early Head Start in the 1994 Reauthorization of Head Start



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Which Head Start Policies Encourage Early Head Start Programs to Partner with Head Start, Child Care, and Other Community Partners?

- Head Start Act, as amended
- *Improving School Readiness & Promoting Long-Term Success: The Head Start Roadmap to Excellence*
- Head Start Program Performance Standards and Other Regulations

What Are the Findings of a Recent National Survey?

- Goal
- Methodology
- Findings



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Question and Answer Session

Resources and Information

- Visit http://www.nhsa.org/research/dialog_briefs to read a *Dialog Brief* entitled, “Head Start’s Perennial Leadership on Parental Engagement” by Dr. Christopher Henrich.
- Visit http://www.nhsa.org/research/nhsa_dialog_a_researchtopractice_journal to learn about the *NHSA Dialog: A Research-to-Practice Journal for the Early Childhood Field*.
- Visit www.nhsa.org to become an individual and/or program member of NHSA.

Resources and Information (Continued)

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