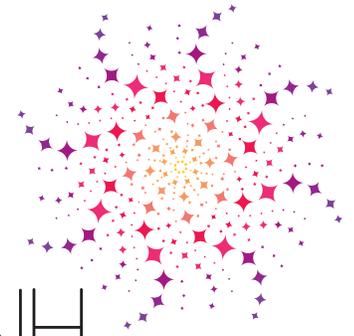


A Framework for Action for New Hampshire's Young Children



Spark NH is the Governor-appointed Early Childhood Advisory Council for the State of New Hampshire. These ten recommended actions for New Hampshire's youngest children are the path to realizing its vision:

SparkNH
Early Childhood Advisory Council

All New Hampshire children and their families are healthy, learning, and thriving now and in the future.

Healthy Children and Families

Goal: Children and families throughout our state have the best opportunities for early and life-long health.

- ✓ Ensure access to affordable health care for families.
- ✓ Strengthen New Hampshire's capacity to promote healthy social emotional development of infants, toddlers, other young children and their families and to provide mental health services and supports.
- ✓ Develop/Expand community-based programs targeting sources of toxic stress, such as violence, crime, abuse, neglect, extreme poverty, substance abuse and severe caregiver mental illness, and ensure effective treatment for those who need it.

Positive Early Learning Experiences

Goal: Effective learning opportunities are provided in all settings including the home, child care and afterschool programs, preschools and elementary schools from birth through the primary grades.

- ✓ Expand access to proven and effective early childhood education for all infants, toddlers and other young children through grade three.
- ✓ Increase opportunities for learning outside of the school day, including summer.
- ✓ Ensure all children are screened for developmental concerns and receive the services needed to promote their optimal development.

Strong Families

Goal: Families have the skills, basic resources, and supports to promote their children's development and learning starting before birth and continuing through the primary grades.

- ✓ Ensure housing and energy assistance to low-income families.
- ✓ Expand access to proven and effective home visiting and family support programs.
- ✓ Ensure hard work pays by raising the minimum wage, supporting parents' job readiness and expanding access to higher education.

A Coordinated Early Childhood System

Goal: New Hampshire's young children and their families have the benefit of well-coordinated early childhood programs and services that work effectively together on their behalf.

- ✓ Establish an integrated, cross-agency statewide early childhood data system to improve program effectiveness and child and family outcomes.