Our Shared Vision

**Young children** reach their developmental potential and are ready to succeed in school and in life.

**Adults** are knowledgeable, nurturing, responsive and interact effectively with other adults, children and the family unit.

**Environments** that impact children are safe, supportive, stable and healthy.

**Orange County** attains economic and social benefits by prioritizing children and families.

Core Principles

- Children and families thrive regardless of income, language and culture
- Supports and services are coordinated and integrated across settings and sectors
- Policies and practices are family centered

Strategies for Action

- Promote and share knowledge
- Identify and eliminate barriers
- Build community capacity
- Make data-informed decisions
- Encourage public-private approaches
- Advance adequate and sustainable funding
- Implement quality standards
- Embed continuous quality improvement
- Ensure coordinated messaging
## Orange County Early Childhood Policy Framework

### ACCESS
Recognizes that availability of services are important

- Parenting programs are sufficiently available, promote the resilience of caregivers, and enhance knowledge of parenting and child development
- Programs, schools and communities offer opportunities for family engagement and leadership
- Family friendly policies and practices exist in the workplace

### QUALITY
Recognizes that services must meet a standard of quality, not simply exist

- Programs promote and support family self-efficacy and self-sufficiency
- Families are empowered to choose high quality comprehensive services, supports and education
- Services and programs for families incorporate protective factors
- Formal and informal care environments and education practices reach the highest standards of quality
- Curriculum and behavior expectations for programs serving children birth through 2nd grade are developmentally appropriate
- All settings provide effective transitions across and within programs, schools and systems

### EQUITY
Recognizes that special populations need special attention

- All families have help to access preventive, timely and coordinated services and supports according to their needs, including high-need children and families and special populations
- Education, employment, housing, financial, health and legal supports and policies contribute to family economic stability and long-term security
- Readiness and academic achievement gaps are eliminated for children birth through eight
- Early childhood professionals are well-trained and well-compensated across programs and settings
- Health disparities are eliminated through education, employment, housing, financial and legal policies that support child and family health
- All environments are safe, free of toxins, have affordable nutritious foods and other opportunities for physical activity
- Children with special health, behavioral or developmental needs receive individualized services and supports

For more information or to put the framework into action, visit: [earlychildhoodoc.org](http://earlychildhoodoc.org)