

Evidence-Based and Evidence-Informed Programs and Practices

Definitions August 18, 2011

BACKGROUND

Legislation

The 2011 legislation passed by the NC General Assembly reads:

SECTION 10.5.(k) The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., and its Board shall establish policies that focus the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.'s mission on improving child care quality in North Carolina for children from birth to five years of age. North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.-funded activities shall include assisting child care facilities with (i) improving quality; including helping one- and two-star rated facilities increase their star ratings, and (ii) implementing prekindergarten programs. State funding for local partnerships shall also be used for evidence-based or evidence-informed programs for children from birth to five years of age that do the following:

- (1) Increase children's literacy.
- (2) Increase the parents' ability to raise healthy, successful children.
- (3) Improve children's health.
- (4) Assist four- and five-star rated facilities in improving and maintaining quality.

SECTION 10.5.(m) The Legislative Research Commission is authorized to study the cost, quality, consumer education, and outcomes of the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.'s activities funded to (i) increase early literacy, (ii) measurably improve families' abilities to raise healthy, productive, and successful children, and (iii) increase access to preventative health care for children from birth to five years of age. The Legislative Services Commission shall evaluate and report on the following:

- (1) The types of activities, goals, and intended outcomes of evidence-based early literacy activities that promote phonemic awareness, letter recognition, segmenting words into sounds, and decoding print text.
- (2) The types of family support and health activities supported with the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., funds.
- (3) The goal and intended outcome of the family support and health activities.
- (4) The numbers served and results of the family support and health activities.
- (5) Study the match requirements and what constitutes the match requirements.
- (6) Any other matter the Commission deems relevant to its charge. (4) Assist four- and five-star rated facilities in improving and maintaining quality.

Definition Adopted by Board of Directors

The North NCPC Board of Directors adopted the following definitions for Evidence-Based and Evidence-Informed programs and practices on 7/26/11. These two definitions provide significant flexibility while assuring outcomes for young children.

“Evidence-based programs or practices are those that have repeatedly and consistently demonstrated desirable outcomes through application of scientific research methods (replicated experimental, experimental, or quasi experimental.)”

“An evidence-informed practice is one that is guided by child development theory, practitioner wisdom, qualitative studies and findings from basic research and has written guidelines, a strong logic model, and a history of demonstrating positive results. They may be rated “Promising” or “Emerging” by at least one source that rates evidence-based programs.”

DEFINITION OF TERMS

- Experimental research – Research study that uses a randomized experimental and control group in its design. Experimental studies are used to make conclusions about cause and effect.
- Replicated experimental research – Research study that repeats a previous experimental study in a different location with different groups.
- Quasi-experimental research - Research study that uses treatment and comparison groups but does not randomly assign individuals to the groups. Causal conclusions cannot be drawn from such studies.