

## **ECECD HOME VISITING FAMILY & CHILD GOALS GUIDANCE DOCUMENT 1**

### **GOALS AND THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING GOALS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FAMILY**

One of the roles of the Home Visitor is to partner with families to identify goals that address family challenges, support the family as they achieve their goals, and provide the family with resources and referrals when needed. Identifying, selecting, setting, and planning goals with families in the home visiting setting is a collaborative process that has the potential to increase family engagement and help parents/caregivers build a number of life skills.

### **CONSULTATION AND TRAINING**

- Provides a common agenda and understanding of the purpose of home visits (see Home Visiting Program Standard 4.2.b);
- Helps the home visitor better understand the values and beliefs of the family; and
- Provide continuity from one visit to the next (see Home Visiting Program Standard 4.2.a).

### **ORIENTING FAMILIES**

Part of the process of orienting families to home visiting includes discussion around the use of goals to help guide visits. Ask the family, “What would you like to work on?” This language is family friendly and opens up conversation.

- Goals should be developed between the home visitor and the family as soon as possible, and no later than the fifth visit.
- Goals are individualized for each family. When partnering with families to develop goals, the following should be taken into account:
  - What the family is most interested in?
  - What are the family’s priorities?
  - What has the home visitor learned through conversations with the family? For example, the results of screens and tools, any checklists programs use that may or may not be tied to a curriculum or model), observation of parent-child interactions, and risk factors.
  - The purpose of the NM Home Visiting Program.

### **DATA**

Documentation - The following must be documented in the NM HV Database in the “Goals” section:

- The date the Home Visitor met with the family to help them identify and set their goals.
- The goal(s) set by the family. (ECSC Tip Sheet #21.1 Adding a Family Goal)
- Each goal is tied to one of the 18 outcome areas (which are expanded from the 5 long-term outcomes of the NM ECECD Home Visiting Program).

- (1) Babies are born healthy
- (2) Children are nurtured by their parents and caregivers
- (3) Children are physically and mentally healthy and ready for school
- (4) Children and families are safe
- (5) Families are connected to formal and informal supports in their communities

- The date a goal is closed.
- The disposition when the goal is closed. (ECSC Tip Sheet #21.3 Ending/Expiring a Family Goal).
- Strategies and activities can also be recorded in the goals section of the database.
- Progress or barriers to accomplishing goals, are documented during review in the progress notes of each goal. (ECSC Tip Sheet 21.2 Reviewing a Family Goal).

Also document progress at each home visit in the service notes. See the guidance document on service notes.

## **PERFORMANCE**

The chief focus of ECECD Home Visiting is the parent-child relationship and at least one goal should be parent-child centered (see Home Visiting Program Standard 4.2c). ECECD encourages the use of the PICCOLO 29 screening and assessment tool, which is a checklist of 29 observable developmentally supportive parenting behaviors covering four domains - affection, responsiveness, encouragement, and teaching.

An example in the area of teaching: When observing PICCOLO Teaching behaviors, watch for indications that the behaviors help a child learn something, expose a child to language and knowledge, or promote play or communication. Goals such as reading books, telling stories, sharing family routines and pretending together all support language, cognitive development, and the beginning of emergent literacy. A parent-centered goal is focused on personal growth for the parent and is not necessarily tied to the parent-child relationship, such as pursuing a GED and the steps that a parent will take during that journey.

Typically, setting two to three goals with a family is manageable, although the number of active goals established at any one time is determined by discussion between the family and home visitor.

There should be short term (within a month or so) and long-term goals that can be accomplished within a few months to a year. This allows for frequent celebration of a family/child's accomplishments (see Home Visiting Program Standard 4.2.d).

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE STRATEGIES**

The process for developing goals during this time needs to be sensitive to the family's individual situation. Goals that were developed previously may have to be placed on hold so that more immediate family needs are addressed. Responding to a family's emergency situation is paramount and communication is key to providing the needed support.