

Zero to Three
Clip 11

Narrator: I think the topic of our old meeting was it all begins with relationships. And we wanted to say that it all begins with relationships because, you know, I think that, for us, was the basis of our successes and our ability to implement the Early Head Start and Family Childcare option with few, I should say, few, you know, barriers or bumps in the road. Part of that relationship building we do internally by meeting various -- often within our administration. Just so we share program updates and where we're going, what we're doing, what things we have in common, how can we support each other.

And we figured out early on that even though we had different regulations that determined how we operated our programs, we were still serving the same people, the providers and the families and the children, and so it was our challenge to find a way to make that happen. We share a vision here at Leach Lake that each child should have access to quality care and education, and we needed to look beyond what our separate programs were doing at that point in time. We also wanted to raise the quality of care and go beyond what the license requirements were asking. We felt that family child cares should have the opportunity to pursue such goals. License requirements would be a baseline, and that we would provide the direction and opportunity to raise the bar above those initial baseline requirements.

We believe our relationship with the family childcare providers has been built over time, and I guess in my mind I look at us as being good friends in our relationship. It was like taking them on a walk down an old road where we could talk about this opportunity that Early Head Start and Family Childcare could provide to them. But through our relationship and the bridges that we built through the years, it was a walk with two old friends because they were more than willing, able, and capable of taking on the challenges that we talked about through our whole process. So it was nice to know that we had the capacity, but we also had the family childcare providers that also showed the ability to accept the challenge and help us implement the Early Head Start and Family Childcare option here on Leach Lake.

[End video]