



The National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning Overview

The National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning supports Head Start with effective resources and training to improve classroom practices and help young children succeed in school and life. Over the next five years, we will collaborate with Head Start trainers and teachers to develop and distribute curriculum, instruction, and assessment tools that are effective in a variety of real-world settings. And we'll provide coaching, feedback, and professional development opportunities to give teachers the support they need.

Teachers Make a Difference

Research demonstrates that Head Start teachers and staff help economically disadvantaged children make gains in learning and development that prepare them for school. Recent studies show that the interactions between teachers and children matter even more than previously thought. When teachers create positive emotional relationships, organize the learning environment effectively, and focus on cognitive and language development, children can make even greater gains that help them succeed in elementary school and beyond.

A Framework for Success

To consistently put these essential lessons into practice, teachers need resources that are relevant to their setting, easy to use, and proven to work. And they need support, feedback, and training along the way. The National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning will:

1. Collaborate with Head Start trainers and teachers to create a library of best practices in curriculum, instruction, and assessment that are aligned with the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework and demonstrated to be effective in a variety of real-world settings;
2. Teach Head Start trainers how to use assessment information of classroom practices and to provide coaching and feedback to help teachers increase effective interactions with students; and
3. Develop new, higher education opportunities so that early learning teachers can access credit-bearing courses and professional development resources when and how they want.

An Expert Team

The National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning is one of five National Centers of Early Childhood Excellence funded by the Office of Head Start. The lead project team includes researchers from the University of Washington, the University of Virginia, and Vanderbilt University who have extensive experience with Head Start and developing effective interventions that make a difference in the lives of young children and their families.

This document was prepared under Grant #90HC0002 for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, by the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning.

Framework for Effective Practice Supporting School Readiness for All Children

