



Head Start Coaching Companion

Bringing Effective Practice Into Focus

The Head Start Coaching Companion is a video sharing and coaching feedback application for early care and education programs to use with their staff and providers. Programs request access and then assign roles to coaches and coachees within their organization. The Head Start Coaching Companion helps coaches and coachees and peer-coaching teams work together, even between coach visits or from a distance. Use the Head Start Coaching Companion to share video files, ask questions, and exchange feedback. Users can also develop individualized coaching plans that support quality teaching and positive outcomes for young children.

Teachers, family child care providers, home visitors, and coaches can use the Head Start Coaching Companion's video library to view examples of teaching practices. They can also share their own classroom or home-based videos and track progress through the three major components of practice-based coaching (PBC)—shared goals and action planning, focused observation, and reflection and feedback. PBC is a research-based coaching model whose components align with a variety of coaching models used across states and territories.



The Head Start Coaching Companion guides teams through the process of setting coaching goals and developing action plans related to the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.



Recorded observations, notes, videos, and photos can be uploaded and shared in a private, password-protected space.



Coaches provide supportive, constructive feedback, building on coachees' strengths. The Head Start Coaching Companion provides a safe place for coachees to ask questions and share concerns with their coaches or with other trusted peers. Coaches and coachees can annotate video observations with comments and questions.



The Head Start Coaching Companion includes video exemplars and resources developed by national practice-based coaching experts.

Head Start Coaching Companion Requirements

The Head Start Coaching Companion participants should have access to a computer, tablet, or smart phone with basic video editing software; a digital video camera, tablet, or smart phone with video capability; and reliable Internet access.



National Center on
Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

This resource was supported by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the United States (U.S.) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$10,200,000 with 100% funded by ACF. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACF/HHS, or the U.S. Government. This resource may be duplicated for noncommercial uses without permission.