

Introduction to the ELOF Implementation Toolkit

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Claudia: Hi, I'm Claudia, and I'm an education manager at Sunshine Child and Family Services. When I heard about the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework, or the ELOF, I started thinking about what it means for my program. How do we make sure our program implements practices that support children's development described in the ELOF?

I was so excited to learn about the Implementation Toolkit on the ECLKC. The toolkit features implementation guides on using the ELOF to inform professional development, school readiness goals, assessment, and curriculum. They each include activities and tools to help programs implement key practices that support children's development described in the ELOF.

The Implementation Toolkit walked our program through the process of implementing practices that are aligned with the ELOF. To go through this process, I put together an implementation team to help me. It included a few other program leaders, like the disabilities coordinator and the family services manager. It also included some direct service staff, including teachers and home visitors. We also welcomed a couple program families and a community partner to the team.

Each implementation guide led us through a process of three steps: assess, plan, and act. In assess, we had a chance to reflect on our practices and identify areas to strengthen. Then, we made a plan to strengthen practices. We met regularly and communicated frequently to keep everyone informed of the plan. Finally, we were ready to act.

Implementing our plans is an ongoing process that takes time. I still check in with our other program leaders and staff to see how implementation is going and how we can continue to enhance our practices. The Implementation Toolkit helps programs implement practices that support children's development in the ELOF domains, which is critical for their later school success.

Explore what each guide is about and choose where your program will dive into the Implementation Toolkit.

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