Key research directs our work in Early Head Start and Head Start (EHS/HS). In order to ensure that every Head Start and Early Head Start child is ready to succeed in school, the following key areas should be addressed:

- Physical health and well-being
- Positive social and emotional development
- Early language and literacy development
- Strong vocabulary skill development that includes academic language as well as rich daily language
- Consistent and responsive family engagement in children’s educational and social growth, especially in supporting the home language of dual language learners

These key areas should be addressed by early childhood teachers who are both excellent language models for young children and skilled at using proven strategies to promote early language and literacy development.

The careful and intentional implementation of research-based practices can ensure that each child is ready to read and succeed in school.