

The Research Behind Strengthening Families

strengthening families

THROUGH EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

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In the beginning, we were seeking a strategic, feasible approach to child abuse prevention that was:

- systematic,
- national,
- reached large numbers of very young children, and
- would have impact long before abuse or neglect occurred



Our hypothesis was that early care and education programs could be central because they offer:

- Daily contact with parents and children
- Uniquely intimate relationship with families
- A universal approach of positive encouragement and education for families
- An early warning and response system at the first sign of trouble



The CSSP Process

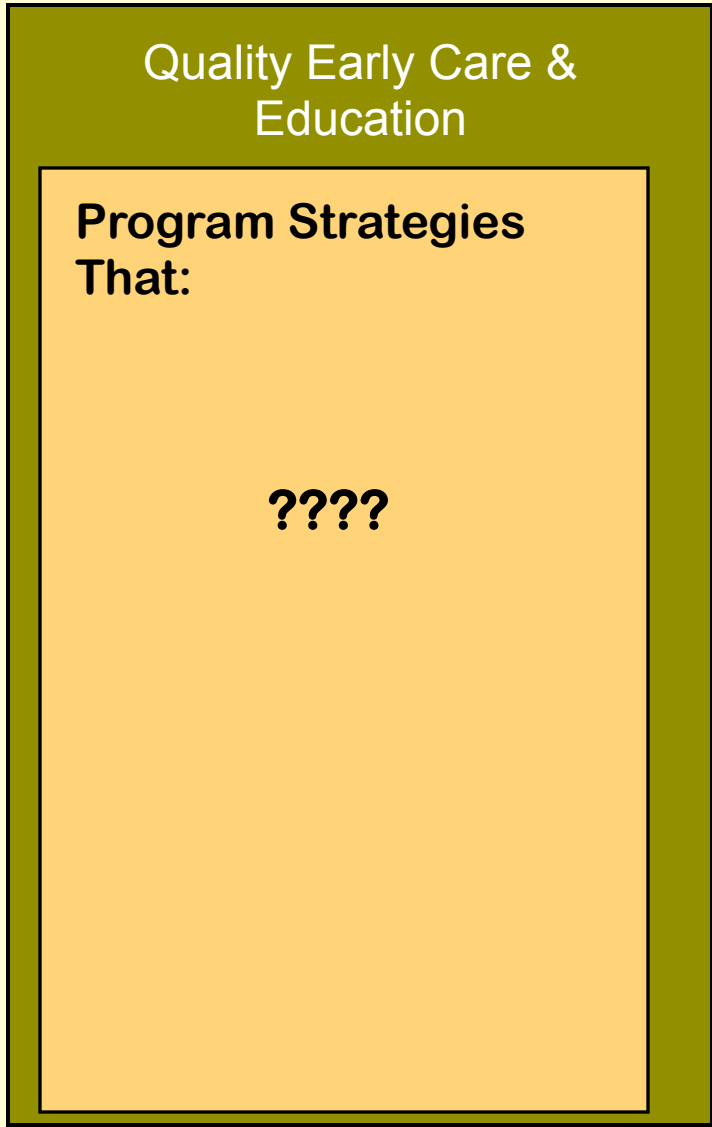
Step 1: Search the evidence to find out what factors really reduce child abuse and neglect

Step 2: Explore the connection between factors that prevent child abuse and neglect and what quality early childhood programs do to build them

Step 3: Identify programs that build the factors and learn how they do it

Step 4: Learn about policy and practice changes needed to infuse the model statewide through a partnership with 7 pilot states

Step 5: Continue to harvest knowledge from those implementing across the country



Protective Factors

Parental Resilience

Social Connections

Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development

Concrete supports in times of need

Social & Emotional Competence of Children

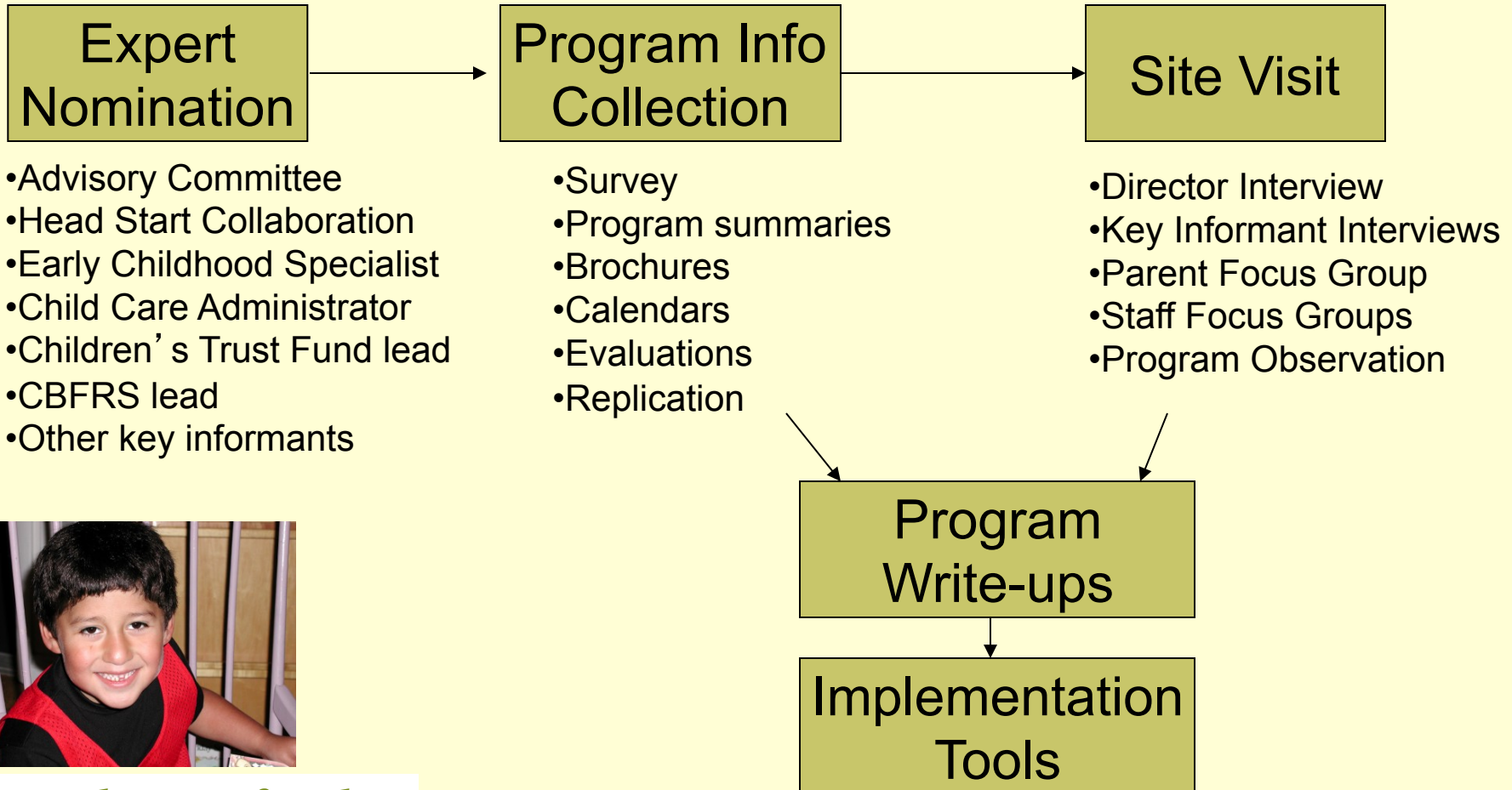
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CAN Prevention

Gathering Input from the Field

- CBFRS
- Child Trends
- CWLA
- Family Support America
- Free to Grow
- Natl. Alliance of Children's Trust Funds
- NAEYC
- NCCAN
- NACCRRA
- Natl. Child Care Assn
- Prevent Child Abuse America
- USA Child Care
- Zero to Three

Learning from ECE program practice



Nominations Process



- 100 programs nominated
- 10 were self-nominated
- 25 were selected for site visits
- Both nominated programs and selected programs reflected diversity in: region of country, program model & auspices, budget size, and target population.

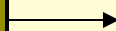
learning network of exemplary programs



Quality Early Care & Education

Program Strategies That:

- Facilitate friendships and mutual support
- Strengthen parenting
- Respond to family crises
- Link families to services and opportunities
- Value and support parents
- Facilitate children's social and emotional development
- Observe and respond to early warning signs of child abuse or neglect



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CAN Prevention

The Seven State Pilot

- 2 year partnership with states to identify policy and practice changes needed to take SFI statewide
- Wide latitude on implementation strategies
- United by a consistent set of hallmarks for statewide implementation

Hallmarks for Statewide Implementation

- ***More programs use the protective factors framework***
- ***Parent leadership is demonstrated at all levels***
- ***Integration of Strengthening Families into Early Care and Education initiatives in many settings is evident***
- ***Early Care and Education and child welfare services (CWS) build stronger, mutually beneficial relationships***
- ***Documentation describes key decision points and provides evidence that the “Hallmarks” are being achieved***

Ongoing research agenda

CSSP

- Quality Improvement Center in Early Childhood
- Tracking state implementation

National Partners

- NACTF—Lifting up tools and strategies from state work
- UWW

CSSP' s Ongoing Research Agenda

- Quality Improvement Center for Early Childhood
- Tracking and learning from implementation
- Learning agenda' s around special topics