

The HUB Site and The Pasadena Early Childhood Hub Network: A Description

The Foundation of the Hub Site and the Pasadena Early Childhood Hub Network

The *Strengthening Families* approach is one of the most critical frameworks for aligning practices and services in support of a family's ability to live in and contribute to healthy neighborhoods, in support of parental resilience, and in enhancing child development. Under the *Strengthening Families* umbrella, support for children and families is organized around the key areas of health and emotional well-being, quality early childhood settings, and neighborhood supports. (2022 *Early Child Development Policy*, Core Element #3)

The Hub Site is the center of pulling together health services, neighborhood services, city services and pre-kindergarten related services. These services form key touchpoints offering the opportunity to extend the full array of available services and supports to effectively work with children and families. Coordinated services across all sectors of the City and community are the key implementation strategies.

The Hub Site, as the center of these key implementation strategies, is a highly visible and easily accessible location within the community where families with children ages 0-5 connect to early childhood information and services.

The Hub Site is a family-friendly physical space within a partner facility that serves as a family resource center. Key factors and characteristics of a **Hub** include the following:

- Prominent display of the Office of the Young Child logo and materials and the Pasadena Early Childhood Hub network materials that increase community awareness of the HUB, its services, resources, and the host/partner agency
- Availability of staff and staff readiness, trained to serve in a Hub and having working knowledge and understanding of the purpose of a Hub
- Includes a comfortable space for Hub staff and partner agency staff to host family/caregiver activities, services, and supports, such as
 - Parent support groups
 - Parenting education classes
 - Connecting families through parent socials
 - Children's activities, including play time, story time
 - Developmental screening for each child
 - Using the Early Development Instrument (EDI) results for the purposes of focusing on children's developmental health and well-being
 - Data Collection, Record Keeping, Surveys: Capture data and information on children and families' health and well-being, the types of services and numbers regarding who is receiving what services, how much and where, as well as understanding families' experiences of services and other community supports
 - Data Use: Improve data dissemination and visualization that emphasizes improving stakeholders' ability to use data to drive decision-making and improved impact.
 - Anecdotal records re: needs and concerns of child health, child development, preschool opportunities, family security and well-being
 - Regular meetings, collaborative workgroups with staff, parents, Early Childhood Education (ECE) providers, including regular learning activities for staff, parents and network partners
 - Focus on effective Transition from Pre-School to Kindergarten in partnership with the school district, child care centers, early childhood leaders, parents, families, and Kindergarten teachers.

The Pasadena Early Childhood Hub Network is made up of the parents and caregivers of children 0-5, the Hub site staff, city and community service providers, and early childhood advocates and experts who foster together the healthy development and well-being of children 0-5 and support families with coordinated services, tools and resources to thrive. This network, supported in the City of Pasadena through the Office of the Young Child, represents the communities of Pasadena, Altadena and Sierra Madre, which are jointly served by the Pasadena Unified School District.