

Hello,

I'm Yvette Sanchez Fuentes, Director of the Office of Head Start.

Today, the Administration for Children and Families is excited to announce a revision of the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework. It has been renamed – The Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework and is available in English and Spanish on the ECLKC.

When the Framework was first published in 2000 it was a groundbreaking document that focused Head Start programs on the key elements of school readiness moved many states to develop early learning standards that mirrored elements of the Framework.

The revised Framework reflects changes in the early childhood field and in our legislation. New research has improved our understanding of the most important elements of school readiness. Further, the 2007 Head Start Reauthorization Act has increased the role of the Framework in Head Start programs, requiring local programs to align program and school readiness goals to the Framework.

The revised Framework is organized into 11 domains, 37 domain elements and over 100 examples. The 11 domains represent the overarching areas of child development and early learning essential for school and long-term success. There are 8 domains carried forward from the original Framework and 3 new ones, with 10 of the 11 domains to guide work with all children and one domain to guide experiences for children who are Dual Language learners.

In the Framework, you will find that each domain includes domain elements that more specifically define its components and also examples that provide more information about the key knowledge, behaviors, or skills within each element. Of course, your program may identify other examples relevant to that domain element.

The revised Framework will guide all programs serving children 3-5 years old, including children who are dual language learners and children with disabilities, on the key elements of school readiness.

It is not appropriate for programs serving infants and toddlers.

The Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework will once again move the field of early childhood forward -- it is a key tool in helping programs promote continuous quality improvement and child well-being and success. I hope that you will read the revised Framework and share it with your staff. This tool will assist you in ensuring that our children and families are receiving high quality, comprehensive services to be successful in school and beyond.

Thank you for taking the time to view this Webcast, and thank you for the work you do each and every day on behalf of children and families across this country.