

HELP[®] and KinderCharts

Supporting

Early Head Start School Readiness Action Steps

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HELP and KinderCharts - an ideal fit for implementing Head Start's four strategic "School Readiness Action Steps for Infants and Toddlers" designed to help Early Head Start Programs achieve their school readiness goals.*

Action Step 1 Establish goals for improving school readiness across domains

- *HELP Strands*, domains, skills, behaviors, and curriculum are aligned to Head Start's five essential domains
- HELP is sensitive to the rapid development of infants and toddlers with hundreds of age appropriate developmental skills and behaviors
- A list of HELP School Readiness Goals, aligned with HELP assessment and curriculum, are available for programs to adapt and individualize with families and communities

Action Step 2 Create and implement an action plan for achieving established school readiness goals

- *HELP at Home*, a HELP 0-3 curriculum, provides:
 - ❖ Hundreds of family centered handouts to support the varying developmental needs of infants and toddlers.
 - ❖ Activities that focus on helping parents and staff recognize, interpret, and provide sensitive responds to infant-toddler behaviors
- *HELP at Home* handouts are linked directly to HELP skills
- *Inside HELP*, administration and reference manual, includes:
 - ❖ Assessment of responsive and safe caregiver interactions and environments that support each essential domain
 - ❖ Examples of functional outcome/goal statements that may be relevant to achieve individual goals for each developmental area
 - ❖ "Family friendly" definitions of domains, skills and behaviors that help staff and families learn and understand about each child's developmental strengths and needs

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Action Step 3 Assess child progress on an ongoing basis and aggregate and analyze data at multiple times throughout the year

- The KinderCharts-HELP reporting system *tracks progress data* for children throughout the year
- The KinderCharts-HELP reporting system identifies child and program-level progress using HELP's *criterion referenced* skills and behaviors for same aged infants and toddlers
- *Inside HELP* provides comprehensive information about behaviors, skills and knowledge areas for more than 650 developmental skills and behaviors for ongoing assessment and planning within 60 conceptual HELP Strands. This framework supports School Readiness Goals and is sensitive to the rapid development of infants and toddlers.

Action Step 4 Examine data for patterns of progress for groups of children in order to revise, or develop and implement plans for program improvement

- KinderCharts reports link directly to HELP and offer a variety of individualized reports designed to meet program needs and examine data patterns.
- KinderCharts provides individualized reports that illustrate patterns of progress and outcomes in groups of children to best inform program assessment,
- KinderCharts reports are easily customized to provide comparative analysis within and between groups of children

Adapted from: * http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/Early_Head_Start/early-learning/curriculum/SchoolReadiness.htm