



★ Early Essentials ★

## Quick Start Guide for Components of Quality

### Know the Essentials

High-quality programs employ well-educated staff who...

- Learn about individual children and families, and plan environments, experiences and services that build on their strengths and meet their needs.
- Engage in partnerships with families, including expectant families.
- Connect children and families to a range of community services.
- Understand the needs of infants, toddlers and their families and use what they know to offer children individualized care and routines.
- Are supported by state and federal regulations that put health and safety first.

### Take a Deeper Look

- Think about what you heard and saw in this webisode regarding health and safety. List some of the processes you use to keep children safe and healthy.
- What does it mean to be responsive to a baby? Explore some beliefs about how to respond to a child that you have learned from your own family.
- Check out your state professional development career pathways. Where in your career pathway are you now? Where do you see yourself in 3 years?

### Explore Resources

- **Quality Early Head Start Services: A Summary of Research-Based Practices That Support Children, Families and Expectant Parents** at:  
<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/about-ehs/QualityEarlyHea.htm%20>
- **News You Can Use** at:  
<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/cde/curriculum/DevelopmentallyA.htm%20%20>
- **State/territory professional development system overview:**  
<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/stateterritory-professional-development-system-overviews-0>.