



# The Engagement In Action (EnAct!) Framework -- One Big Doable Thing!

Toward a Statewide Integrated Early Childhood Health System that Optimizes the Power of Family Engaged Prevention and Early Intervention

### Child and Family Flourishing: The Engagement In Action Opportunity

The EnAct! framework was designed to serve as a national model focused on translating the science of healthy development by scaling strategies, innovations, and policies to promote child flourishing, school readiness and family resilience, foster positive childhood experiences (PCEs) and prevent and mitigate the impacts of adverse childhood

experiences (ACEs). The EnAct! framework achieves its whole child health purpose using a through any door family engaged approach powered by interoperable whole child and family assessment and data sharing tools and health promotion interventions that drive collaboration across health care, early childhood systems and community partners as they work to close persistent gaps in the utilization and quality of preventive and developmental services for children aged 0-5. In full alignment with national Bright Futures Guidelines, healthcare and state early childhood systems' goals, performance standards, payment innovations, data requirements and evidence-based strategies, the EnAct! approach works to incentivize and overcome barriers to real engagement and coordinated, cross-system action so all children and families thrive!

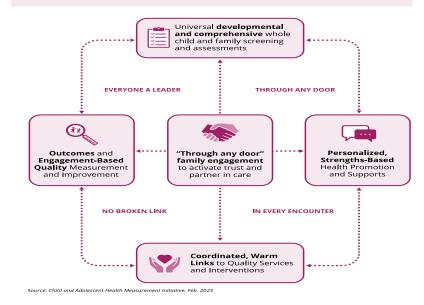
Over half of young children in the United States experience complex and interrelated social, relational and/or medical health risks (45.3%-63.2% across states).Only 40% meet criteria for being ready for school, 65% fail to receive even basic early developmental screens and large gaps exist in the utilization of essential well-child care services. Now is the time for the bold and feasible actions set forth in the EnAct! framework to create an integrated early childhood health system. Figure 1: Engagement In Action (EnAct!) Framework Purpose, Goals, Approach

#### Framework Purpose: Whole Child Health

The purpose of the EnActl framework is to promote whole child health and improve child flourishing, school readiness and family resilience.

#### Framework Goals—One Big Doable Thing

- 1. All In: Universal provision of comprehensive, personalized, whole child and family preventive and developmental services.
- Real Engagement: Families are engaged to access and ensure services are personalized to their goals and needs and to shape improvements in practice, policy and systems of care
- 3. Seamless System: All early childhood systems intentionally collaborate to optimize early screening, address social and relational health needs, and promote well-being



Despite widespread awareness about the urgency and possibilities to improve the healthy development of young children and existing system priorities and assets for doing so, poor outcomes and

performance gap realities call for creating new conditions, incentives and supports for historically siloed programs and sectors across health, early childhood, family support and others to work together seamlessly and in authentic partnerships with families and communities. The EnAct! framework provides an imminently actionable roadmap (Fig. 2) with relevance across all early childhood system partners to spark swift and effective action so all children and families receive high-quality comprehensive and personalized whole child and family services. The EnAct! implementation roadmap sets forth key actions and implementation outcomes relevant across states, including the Mississippi state illustration, summary of data to spark commitment and priority setting, a policy playbook with priority policy levers, a summary of methods to jump start collaboration, a partner and performance measure analysis and *Possibility Prototypes* illustrating the relevance and *through every door* roles (Fig 3) early childhood health system partners can play to support success through shared accountability.

Figure 2: The Engagement In Action Implementation Roadmap (see full report for data, methods, partners landscape, policy levers and possibility prototypes)

### IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

Action: Establish a sustainable, cross-system, multi-level state leadership capacity

- Outcome #1: A cross-sector body has the structure, capacity and influence to sustainably advance state program and policy strategies that promote positive early childhood health
- Outcome #2: State leadership builds an across state agency infrastructure to coordinate strategies, resources, operations and performance measures that promote early childhood development
- Outcome #3: Local community coordinating bodies lead and link with state leadership to drive effective frontline systems change and improvements

**Action:** Create a culture of engagement among families, professionals, and system partners

- Outcome #4: Families are supported, included and activated to partner in care.
- Outcome #5: Families trust and experience authentic power-sharing and respect
- Outcome #6: Professional competencies and mechanisms for effective family engagement and partnerships are prioritized

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**This is the road** to whole child health, school readiness, family resilience and child flourishing.

Action: Catalyze, facilitate, study and spread cross-sector, practice-based implementation

- Outcome #7: A learning and communications network supports early adopters and spread
- Outcome #8: Launch and learn demonstrations inform spread and continuous improvement
- Outcome #9: Implementation resources are built, integrated and accessible
- Outcome #10: Professionals are trained to implement the science of healthy development and positive and adverse childhood experiences (PACEs) with all children and families

Action: Drive enabling and incentivizing policies and financing strategies critical to success

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- Outcome #11: Policies support processes to facilitate coordination of healthcare and community based services and resources across organizations and state agency programs
- Outcome #12: Health plans, providers and early childhood development professionals are incentivized and financed to enable high quality care and improvement

Source: Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Feb. 2023

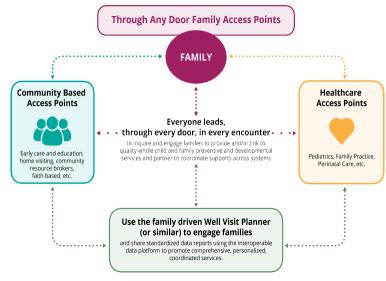
### **From Possibilities to Progress**

Creating a healthy and productive society depends on fostering achievable leaps in the healthy development and flourishing of children and families. By leveraging strengths and existing federal, state and community programs and infrastructure, states are well poised to promote whole child health through transformational partnerships across systems and in full partnership with families and communities. The decades of research, advocacy and systems change work led by a countless army of individuals and organizations enable us to meet this moment of opportunity for generations to come if we prioritize the possibilities before us. The EnAct! framework is offered to accelerate progress by bolstering and building the capacity of families, communities, children's health care and all early childhood systems to partner in the joyful work to measurably improve the well-being of all children and families, as well as that of the professionals that serve them.

## Learn more here.



Figure 3: Illustration of the EnAct! Through Any Door Approach Powered by Interoperable Family Engaged Principles and Assessment and Data Sharing Tools



Source: Child and Adalescent Health Measurement Initiative, Feb. 2023

Citation: Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, <u>Two Page Summary of</u> the Engagement In Action Framework, April, 2023

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