



Innovation Collaborative

Early Care and Education

About

The Early Care and Education Innovation Collaborative is an ad hoc activity associated with the Roundtable on Obesity Solutions at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (The National Academies). This ad hoc convening activity fosters information sharing and collaboration toward the Roundtable aims as well as progress on findings highlighted in prior National Academies reports. Any products and activities associated with this collaborative do not necessarily represent the views of any one organization, the Collaborative, the Roundtable, or the National Academies and has not been subjected to the review procedures of, nor are they a reports or products of, the National Academies.

Background

With 26.7% of 2 – 5 year olds already overweight or obese in 2009/10, we know prevention efforts must target our youngest children. One of the best places to reach young children with obesity prevention efforts is the early care and education setting (ECE). The use of ECE facilities – including child care centers, home-based child care, Head Start programs, preschool and pre-kindergarten programs – has become the norm in the U.S. Improving the ECE environment will help children develop a foundation of healthy habits for life. Standards and best practices for obesity prevention in ECE have been established by expert groups; however, there remain gaps in information and barriers to implementation.

Goal

Accelerate action in obesity prevention in the ECE sector for children from birth to 5 years by leveraging existing work and addressing identified gaps.

Objectives

- Understand the current work in this sector to identify priority areas for action.
- In action areas, identify barriers to progress and promote solutions.
- Create a shared action plan (with responsible parties and timelines) focused on addressing gaps, taking non-duplicative actions that leverage existing work, and adding value over a 3-year period.

Leadership

Chair

Debbie I. Chang, M.P.H.
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