



GRAND BEGINNINGS
STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 - 2025



Supporting Programs,
Health, and Education
for Young Children

OUR VISION

A community that values the health and development of young children, their families, and the professionals who provide quality early care and education.



OUR MISSION

To promote a child-centered school readiness system that fosters early learning, facilitates healthy child development, and promotes family success in Grand County.



OUR STRATEGIC COMMITMENT

To accomplish our mission and achieve our vision, Grand Beginnings works to leverage partnerships and resources that build and strengthen comprehensive early childhood services within Grand and Jackson Counties

Our Strategic Priorities:

- 1. Child Health and Development:** Best practices for children’s preventative health and development are implemented universally and integrated across environments to equitably serve all families.
- 2. Early Care and Education Environments and Workforce:** Learning experiences and environments are high-quality, developmentally-appropriate, and meet the needs of our community.
- 3. Early Childhood Mental Health Supports:** Settings and practices promote strong relationships and social-emotional wellbeing with early intervention, consultation, and comprehensive support services.
- 4. Family Support and Education:** Families have the knowledge and capacity to support their children’s health development and learning.

Grand Beginnings believes that it is at the intersection of these four priorities that whole child development and school readiness are promoted .



CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Strategic Commitment: Young children have the opportunity and supports to maximize their individual healthy development through education, outreach, advocacy, and responsive screening systems.

Desired Outcomes:

- Cross-sector, routine, standardized and universal developmental and preventative screenings (vision, oral health, and hearing) are widely administered with clear referral and follow-up pathways.
- A screening and referral system is offered in variety of settings that are coordinated to remove barriers for families to access these services.
- Improved family engagement in healthy practices, including access to healthy food, proper use of car seats and helmets, increased immunization rates, and physical activity.
- Most young children have access to coordinated, continuous , and comprehensive health care services through medical homes.



EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION ENVIRONMENTS AND WORKFORCE

Strategic Commitment: Early care and education environments have the supports they need to provide high quality experiences.

Desired Outcomes:

- Recruitment and retention strategies are employed to support a strong and qualified early childhood professional workforce.
- Relationship focused coaching and technical assistance for early care and education sites that results in continuous quality improvement.
- Best practices are used to implement curriculum and daily practices that support early learning, nurturing relationships, and improved child outcomes.
- Professional development opportunities are available that support qualified staff and increased Colorado Early Childhood Educator Credential Levels.
- Improved access and affordability of early care and education programs to meet family and community needs.
- Early care and education programs demonstrate a commitment to continuous quality improvement and to providing a high quality environment that aligns with best practices, state standards, program philosophy, and family needs.



EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

Strategic Commitment: As a part of overall healthy development, we are committed to ensuring appropriate mental health supports for pregnant people, infants, toddlers, and young children, their families, and early childhood professionals.

Desired Outcomes

- Young children and their families have access to local expertise, resources and supports that promote the positive development of their child's self-esteem and mental health through preventative and intervention services.
- Early care and education programs have the tools, training, and resources to universally promote social and emotional competence while addressing and supporting children with challenging behaviors .
- Early care and education programs have the support to be community resources for addressing young children's mental health needs and do not remove children from their programs for behavior or mental health concerns.
- Implement evidence-based models for early childhood mental health consultation that work in alignment with the state-wide system, regional partners, and local community efforts.



FAMILY AND CAREGIVER SUPPORT AND EDUCATION

Strategic Commitment: Families and caregivers of young children have the supports they need to be successful within our community.

Desired Results

- Varied opportunities for families to engage in education that focuses on school readiness, social and emotional development, positive behavior guidance strategies, relationships, and healthy practices.
- Families are equipped with tools and supports to participate in leadership opportunities and to advocate for their child's needs and the needs of all young children in Grand County.
- Families feel supported by the greater community, reporting decreased parenting stress and greater engagement in their children's development, early care, and education.
- Advocate for and implement evidence based strategies that reduce child maltreatment, child poverty, and increase positive parenting practices.