Overview

Welcome to the Professional Development Guides for Implementing Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE). These guides offer resources, group experiences, and activities, which we call "learning extensions," to support the Head Start/Early Head Start community and other early childhood professionals in implementing effective PFCE.

Use these resources and learning extensions to shape a systemic, integrated, and comprehensive approach to PFCE and to make progress toward positive outcomes for families and children. You may modify or adapt the learning extensions based on your group's knowledge and experience. We encourage you to share your adaptations and ideas for new activities with us.

Follow the guides from beginning to end as part of a professional development plan. Or turn to the individual content areas that address your specific needs.

Content Areas

We have designed these professional development guides to cover the knowledge and skills needed to implement effective PFCE. Each content area responds to a different set of guiding questions. Review the guiding questions for this content area below:

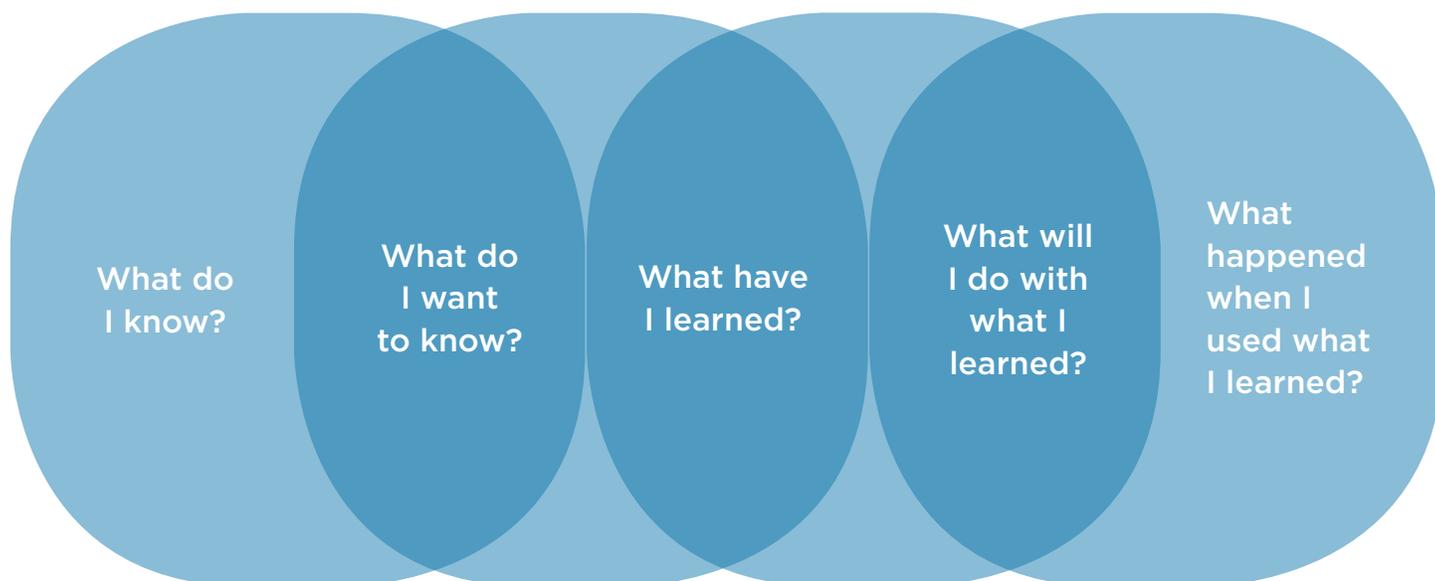| Content Area	Guiding Questions
Leadership and Program Practices	• What is the role of Program Foundations in PFCE? • How can staff and leaders nurture Positive Goal-Oriented Relationships through the Program Foundations? • How can staff and leaders identify strengths, opportunities, and strategies to improve their program?

Each content area has three sections:
- The **Introduction** provides an overview of the content area.
- The **Learning Extensions** feature instructions for leading groups in professional development experiences using PFCE resources, including readings, presentations, videos, and activities. The Learning Extensions also offer tips for adapting the experiences for individuals.
- The **Resources** section lists all of the materials used in the content area, as well as additional resources to explore.

Working with Adult Learners

Learning a new approach, skill, or activity is a process. These guides use reflective practice to assist individual and group learning. Using this ongoing reflection approach, you will acknowledge your and your group's experiences, expertise, desires, and discoveries. We encourage you to support colleagues, coworkers, and supervisors to engage in reflective practice. Benefits of ongoing reflective practice include:

- Improved skills in engaging families and communities
- Strengthened relationships with others
- Greater awareness and understanding of how your experiences influence your implementation of PFCE

Reflective Practice Process

What do I know?

What do I want to know?

What have I learned?

What will I do with what I learned?

What happened when I used what I learned?

Media and Methods

The Professional Development Guides for Implementing PFCE use a variety of media and methods. These include real-life examples of PFCE in Head Start/Early Head Start programs, as well as readings and videos that highlight effective implementation of PFCE. As you explore the learning extensions, consider which formats and methods will work best with your group.

Note: You can find all the resources used in these guides on the Internet. Turn to page 35 for the full web addresses.

Getting Started

Incorporating these guides into your professional development plans will increase your potential for being successful in engaging parents, families, and the community. As you get started, use your responses to the questions below to help you determine which content areas and learning extensions to use. The content area guiding questions on page 1 may also help you select which learning extensions to begin with.

- Are you responding to a specific need?
- Are you creating a professional development plan for PFCE?
- What methods and media best meet your group's needs?