



Alignment of the Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office Standards to the Texas Infant-Toddler Specialist (ITSN) Professional Learning Communities for Teachers

About ITSN Teacher PLCs

ITSN professional learning communities (PLCs) for teachers are an opportunity to connect early learning programs to quality training that is highly aligned to the Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF).

PLCs are:

- Focused heavily on classroom practice, using exemplar videos to explore strong teacher-child interactions
- Facilitated in small groups of practitioners to encourage engagement and peer-to-peer exchange
- Designed to deepen understanding after completion of self-paced online courses (courses required for some PLCs)
- Hosted virtually with multiple scheduling options
- Approximately one hour long
- Provided at no cost to participants or boards

Using This Document

The Texas ITSN has created this alignment document to help center directors and professional development coordinators identify the most appropriate PLCs for their infant and toddler teachers, depending on teachers' individual needs. The ITSN highly recommends five PLC series because of their strong alignment to the ELOF:

- Connect with Me: Promoting Social-Emotional Development
- Talk with Me: Promoting Early Language Development
- Read with Me: Promoting Early Literacy Development
- Learn with Me: Promoting Cognitive Development
- Move with Me: Supporting Early Physical Development and Health

The table on pages 2-3 shows the specific classroom strategies included within each recommended PLC series. The far right column describes the areas of the ELOF that are most aligned to each series.

The table on pages 4-7 identifies the individual PLCs that align with each sub-domain of the ELOF.

When assigning PLCs to teachers, it is strongly recommended that directors encourage teachers to participate in all PLCs within a given series, as strategies across PLCs build on each other. Additional PLCs that may be of interest to teachers and directors can be found on page 8.

PLC Strategies and Alignment to Early Learning Outcomes Framework			ELOF Alignment
Connect with Me: Promoting Social and Emotional Development PLC series			
Part 1 PLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express warmth and affection Use praise Label feelings Comfort children in distress Encourage back-and-forth play 	Part 2 PLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be predictable Redirect undesired behaviors Follow consistent daily routines Help children share space Support turn-taking 	Part 3 PLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage talking about feelings Talk about connections between feelings/events Build emotional understanding Promote peer interactions Offer prompts for peer interactions 	The Connect with Me series explores 20 social and emotional strategies, supporting the following sub-domains: Emotional & Behavioral Self-Regulation, Cognitive Self-Regulation, Initiative & Curiosity, Creativity, Relationships with Adults, Relationships with Other Children, Emotional Functioning, Sense of Identity & Belonging, Attending & Understanding, Communicating & Speaking, Vocabulary, Memory, Reasoning & Problem Solving, Imitation & Symbolic Representation and Play, Perception, and Health, Safety & Nutrition.
Part 4 PLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model prosocial behaviors Explain what comes next Provide cues for self-control Offer opportunities to make choices Help resolve conflicts 	Part 5A PLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying causes Prevention strategies Response strategies 	Part 5B PLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying causes Prevention strategies Response strategies 	
Talk with Me: Promoting Early Language Development PLC series			
Part 1 PLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labeling Describing Comparing Explaining 	Part 2 PLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linking Narrating Thinking aloud Rephrasing Extending 	Part 3 PLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asking questions Pacing Encouraging conversations Inviting participation Scaffolding 	The Talk with Me series includes 14 strategies for promoting language development, and supports the following sub-domains: Emotional & Behavioral Self-Regulation, Relationships with Other Children, Emotional Functioning, Sense of Identity & Belonging, Attending & Understanding, Communicating & Speaking, Vocabulary, Emergent Literacy, Exploration & Discovery, Memory, Reasoning & Problem Solving, Emergent Mathematical Thinking, Imitation & Symbolic Representation and Play, Gross Motor, Fine Motor, and Health, Safety & Nutrition.
Read with Me: Promoting Early Literacy Development PLC series			
Part 1 PLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read with enthusiasm Share control Invite interest Talk about pictures Encourage participation 	Part 2 PLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice fine motor Rhythm and rhyme Link to experiences Point out print Model writing Use props and extenders 		The Read with Me series includes 11 literacy-building strategies and primarily supports items in the Emergent Literacy sub-domain, with some support for the Memory, and Reasoning & Problem-Solving sub-domains.

PLC Strategies and Alignment to Early Learning Outcomes Framework			ELOF Alignment
Learn with Me: Promoting Cognitive Development PLC series			
Part 1 PLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sensory exploration Encourage observation Encourage effort and persistence Maintain children's attention Encourage imitation 	Part 2 PLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how things work Talk about sequence Engage children in math activities Model/join in pretend play 	Part 3 PLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote flexibility in thinking Model problem solving aloud Scaffold by simplifying Scaffold by adding challenge 	The Learn with Me series includes 13 cognitive strategies and supports several sub-domains, including Cognitive Self-Regulation, Initiative & Curiosity, Creativity, Emergent Literacy, Exploration & Discovery, Memory, Reasoning & Problem-Solving, Emergent Mathematical Thinking, Imitation & Symbolic Representation and Play, Perception, Fine Motor, and Health, Safety & Nutrition.
Move with Me: Supporting Early Physical Development and Health PLC series			
Part 1 PLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage infants in tummy time Provide support sitting Promote gross motor skills Promote fine motor skills 	Part 2 PLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to physical needs Talk about nutritious foods Teach safety words and actions Teach body parts and their functions Model and encourage expression of internal states Model and encourage self-care skills 		The Move with Me series includes 10 strategies and supports goals in several sub-domains such as Gross Motor, Fine Motor, and Health, Safety & Nutrition, while also touching on Emergent Literacy.
Course Completion: Please note that these PLCs require course completion prior to participation. Instructions for accessing the courses can be found on the CLI Engage Dashboard . A CLI Engage account is required, but signup is free.			

Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Alignment	Social-Emotional Series					Language Series			Literacy Series		Cognitive Series			Physical Series	
	Pt. 1	Pt. 2	Pt. 3	Pt. 4	Pt. 5A & 5B	Pt. 1	Pt. 2	Pt. 3	Pt. 1	Pt. 2	Pt. 1	Pt. 2	Pt. 3	Pt. 1	Pt. 2
Domain: Approaches to Learning															
Sub-Domain: Emotional & Behavioral Self-Regulation															
Goal IT-ATL 1	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓							
Goal IT-ATL 2	✓	✓		✓	✓										
Sub-Domain: Cognitive Self-Regulation															
Goal IT-ATL 3			✓		✓						✓	✓	✓		
Goal IT-ATL 4					✓						✓	✓	✓		
Goal IT-ATL 5		✓			✓							✓	✓		
Sub-Domain: Initiative & Curiosity															
Goal IT-ATL 6	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓			
Goal IT-ATL 7											✓	✓	✓		
Sub-Domain: Creativity															
Goal IT-ATL 8	✓		✓	✓								✓	✓		
Goal IT-ATL 9										✓	✓	✓	✓		
Domain: Social & Emotional Development															
Sub-Domain: Relationships with Adults															
Goal IT-SE 1	✓	✓			✓										
Goal IT-SE 2	✓	✓			✓										
Goal IT-SE 3	✓	✓													
Sub-Domain: Relationships with Other Children															
Goal IT-SE 4	✓	✓	✓		✓										
Goal IT-SE 5	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓							
Sub-Domain: Emotional Functioning															
Goal IT-SE 6	✓		✓		✓	✓									
Goal IT-SE 7	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓							
Goal IT-SE 8	✓		✓	✓	✓										
Goal IT-SE 9	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓							

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	Pt. 1	Pt. 2	Pt. 3	Pt. 4	Pt. 5A & 5B	Pt. 1	Pt. 2	Pt. 3	Pt. 1	Pt. 2	Pt. 1	Pt. 2	Pt. 3	Pt. 1	Pt. 2
Sub-Domain: Sense of Identity & Belonging															
Goal IT-SE 10			✓			✓	✓	✓							
Goal IT-SE 11	✓					✓									
Goal IT-SE 12	✓	✓		✓											
Goal IT-SE 13		✓	✓												
Domain: Language & Literacy															
Sub-Domain: Attending & Understanding															
Goal IT-LC 1	✓		✓			✓		✓							
Goal IT-LC 2	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓							
Sub-Domain: Communicating & Speaking															
Goal IT-LC 3	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓							
Goal IT-LC 4	✓						✓	✓							
Goal IT-LC 5	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓							
Goal IT-LC 6	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓							
Sub-Domain: Vocabulary															
Goal IT-LC 7			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓							
Goal IT-LC 8						✓	✓	✓							
Sub-Domain: Emergent Literacy															
Goal IT-LC 9						✓	✓	✓							
Goal IT-LC 10						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Goal IT-LC 11						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Goal IT-LC 12						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Goal IT-LC 13									✓	✓	✓			✓	
Domain: Cognition															
Sub-Domain: Exploration & Discovery															
Goal IT-C 1						✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		
Goal IT-C 2						✓					✓	✓	✓		

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Sub-Domain: Memory															
Goal IT-C 3		✓			✓						✓	✓	✓		
Goal IT-C 4	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Goal IT-C 5		✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓		
Sub-Domain: Reasoning & Problem Solving															
Goal IT-C 6					✓						✓	✓	✓		
Goal IT-C 7		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓		
Sub-Domain: Emergent Mathematical Thinking															
Goal IT-C 8						✓	✓	✓				✓			
Goal IT-C 9						✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Goal IT-C 10						✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Sub-Domain: Imitation & Symbolic Representation and Play															
Goal IT-C 11	✓					✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Goal IT-C 12						✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Goal IT-C 13		✓									✓	✓	✓		
Domain: Perceptual, Motor & Physical Development															
Sub-Domain: Perception															
Goal IT-PMP 1			✓								✓	✓			
Goal IT-PMP 2											✓	✓			
Sub-Domain: Gross Motor															
Goal IT-PMP 3						✓								✓	✓
Goal IT-PMP 4						✓		✓						✓	✓
Goal IT-PMP 5															✓
Sub-Domain: Fine Motor															
Goal IT-PMP 6						✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
Goal IT-PMP 7						✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
Goal IT-PMP 8											✓	✓	✓	✓	

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Sub-Domain: Health, Safety, & Nutrition															
Goal IT-PMP 9											✓				✓
Goal IT-PMP 10			✓												✓
Goal IT-PMP 11			✓			✓									✓

Additional PLCs of Interest: In addition to the PLCs described above, the ITSN offers several PLCs that reinforce quality practices related to the ELOF. These PLCs can be used to support directors' development of individualized staff training plans for their staff and support overall training hours for teachers.

PLC Series	PLC Topics	ELOF Alignment
Texas Infant, Toddler, and Three-Year-Old Early Learning Guidelines (ITELGs) (4 PLCs)	The ITSN provides four PLCs that correspond to the domains of the ITELGs: Physical, Social-Emotional, Language, and Cognitive. Completion of each related online course is required (Texas Infant, Toddler and Three-Year-Old Guidelines Training).	The ITELG PLCs are a great way to engage teachers in facilitated discussion around the ITELG courses and document. They do a deep dive into each of the ELOF central domains and sub-domains.
Family Engagement Series (2 PLCs currently, 2 more coming soon)	Part 1, Partnering with Families, explores broad-based partnership and communication strategies. Part 2, Play-Based Learning, is focused on promoting play-based learning at home through incorporating home-based activities into lesson plans. Completion of each related online course is required. The courses are part of the Family Engagement Series on CLI Engage.	The Family Engagement PLCs are a great way for teachers to build school-home connections. These PLCs align with the ELOF Social and Emotional sub-domains: Relationships with Adults, and Relationships with other Children.
CIRCLE Infant and Toddler Classroom Environmental Checklist (1 PLC)	The CIRCLE Infant & Toddler Classroom Environment Checklist (CEC) helps professionals document the presence and quality of toys, materials, books, and other important classroom features, as well as general classroom arrangement. Early childhood professionals can use the information from the tool to set goals to improve classroom environments, track progress over time, and provide a direction for coaching or technical assistance.	This PLC session is designed for teachers to gain a deeper understanding of the CIRCLE Infant & Toddler Classroom Environment Checklist, exploring key knowledge and professional strategies. This is an additional tool that can assist teachers with classroom management and aligns with several of the ELOF sub-domains, such as Approaches to Learning.
Core Competencies for Practitioners (9 PLCs)	Core competencies refer to specific, basic concepts, skills, and abilities that early childhood professionals should learn, understand and be able to demonstrate. Throughout the Texas Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners and Administrators training, you will learn about the core competencies found in the Texas Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners and Administrators document, developed by the Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office (THSSCO), in collaboration with the Texas Early Learning Council (TELC). This training was designed for use by early childhood professionals to improve the quality of care and education young children receive. The content and structure of the competencies can be thought of as a framework for assessing knowledge and skills, guiding training and professional development opportunities, and monitoring progress.	The Core Competency PLCs cover each of the 9 areas of the Texas Core Competencies for Practitioners, which align with several of the ELOF central learning domains, such as Approaches to Learning, and Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development.