

**Framework: Universal Child Needs and their Policy and Program Counterparts**

***Universal Need***

***Program/Service Counterparts***

*Health and nutrition* (adequate food and exercise for physical and mental growth, protection against and response to disease and injury, and early identification and treatment of health risks and special health needs)

Basic health and nutrition services

Health and developmental services to address identified special needs

*Competent and confident parenting* (at least one, and preferably two, parent figures who provide nurturing, protection, and stimulation and with whom the child bonds and forms attachments that is constant and consistent through the early years)

Services promoting confident and competent parenting (e.g. family support programs, home visiting, and parent education programs)

Supports for safe, stable, and economically viable families

*Constant, stable, appropriate supervision* (continuous adult oversight and support enabling the child to safely explore the environment)

Parental supervision in the home and adult supervision in all supplemental arrangements

*Guidance and instruction* (help and practice in developing large and small motor skills, pre-literacy cognitive development, and socialization with adults and children)

Developmentally appropriate child care and enriched pre-school programs, e.g. quality early childhood care and education

*Safe and supportive communities* (safe conditions within the child's immediate environment, including environmental and physical safety, and supporting social networks, including relatives, friends, and neighbors who contribute to a positive environment for all children and families)

Housing, policing, and community development and community building programs and strategies, particularly focused on poor, disinvested neighborhoods

Source: State Early Childhood Policy Technical Assistance Network

*Financing School Readiness Strategies: An Annotated Bibliography*

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February 2003