

Understanding Equity – Key Considerations

A successful early childhood system strives to meet the needs of all children. In order to accomplish this, intentional efforts to close the opportunity and access gaps that exist by income, race and ethnicity, language, and culture must be a part of any initiative. This tool is designed to help collaboratives test their ideas and solutions within an equity frame.

Instructions: Members of the collaborative should complete this evaluation on their own prior to a group discussion. It is recommended that a trained facilitator who is not a member of the group support your discussions of the group members’ assessments. This tool is best used at multiple points of a collaborative plan. In particular, this tool should be used as solutions are developed, prior to the implementation of any action plan, as well as at agreed upon evaluation points developed by the group.

Desired Outcome	Not At All	Somewhat	Improving	Definitely	Not Applicable
Our solutions will benefit high needs children and families in their communities and neighborhoods					
There is representation from the communities we wish to serve within our group The information from the community and families impacts the decisions made by the organization Resources are allocated in ways to increase the participation of children and families in the community who historically have not had access to museums, libraries and early childhood programs					
Members of our group reflect cultural, racial and linguistic diversity					
My institution has reviewed its policies and procedures to determine institutional barriers to children and families participation					
Our solutions address barriers of affordability for all families					
Our solutions address barriers of accessibility for all families					
Our solutions address barriers of availability for all families					
Our solutions address barriers of structural barriers (transportation,					

hours of operation etc.) inclusion
for all families

NOTES: