

# How Do We Define Success?

---



Christine Ong

First 5 CA California & Water Cooler Joint Conference

March 9, 2010

# What's happening in LA?

---

First 5 LA has supported development of 2 rating systems:

- LAUP 5 Star Quality Assessment & Improvement System
  - Steps to Excellence Project (STEPS)
- Two systems have much in common, but also unique features.
  - Information drawn from multiple sources.
    - Key component is Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) scores
    - Use, interest in more dynamic process-related tools (e.g., AIS, CLASS)
    - Need for measures in areas such as parent engagement.

# Defining success – An example

---

First 5 LA/LAUP developing shared definition for accountability purposes; including:

- Standards (e.g., “good” ERS overall score, ratios).
- Targets (e.g., enrollment levels).
- Required activities (e.g., collecting daily attendance).
- Measures are under development to monitor progress (e.g., parent-engagement, child fall-spring gains).

# Lessons we're learning

---

- Implementation takes time and resources.
- Ask “what’s happening” before “does it work”.
- Think through necessary data elements.
- Verify information.
- Ensure measure appropriateness.

# Lessons (cont.)

---

- Aim to set meaningful goals & benchmarks, informed by empirical evidence.
- Tell the “story” for different sub-groups.
- Support research & evaluation efforts.
- Use caution when thinking about child outcomes in relation to quality data.

# Take a closer look...

---

## First 5 LA Preschool Research

- <http://www.first5la.org/research/preschool-research>

## LAUP

- [www.laup.net](http://www.laup.net)

## STEPs

- <http://ceo.lacounty.gov/ccp/>

## Questions? Comments?

- [cong@first5la.org](mailto:cong@first5la.org)

# What's happening in LA

---

Two rating systems have been developed in LA County:

LAUP 5 Star	Steps to Excellence
All LAUP providers	Pilot project
Covers 4 year olds	Covers infants-preK
Centers & FCCs	Centers & FCCs
Focus on 3-5 Star levels	Focus on 1-5 Star levels
Key elements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regulatory compliance</li><li>• Teacher/child ratios</li><li>• Environmental ratings</li><li>• Qualification, working standards</li></ul>	Key elements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regulatory compliance</li><li>• Teacher/child ratios</li><li>• Environmental ratings</li><li>• Qualification, working standards</li><li>• Special needs identification/inclusion</li><li>• Family/community engagement</li></ul>