

Family Support NEWS BRIEF

A publication of



CENTER FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES



Annual Reflections with Data and Continuous Quality Improvement

June marked the end of the fiscal year for most programs, and is a great time to reflect on data gathered during the year. Data may include measures and assessments that are part of your organization's programs, number of services provided, or customer feedback. Data can be quantitative – measured in numbers – or qualitative – stated in words. Data plays an important role by providing a comprehensive overview of your organization's performance over the year, highlighting trends, and uncovering areas that require attention. Your data can also be valuable as you review the goals expressed in your Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) plan. If your organization does not yet have one, this may be the perfect time to establish one.

Continuous improvement processes ensure that services are consistently refined to meet the evolving needs of families. This leads to higher satisfaction rates among

clients and better outcomes for families. Demonstrating a commitment to CQI can also attract more support from funders. Funders are more likely to invest in organizations that show accountability, transparency, and dedication to improving their impact.

CQI promotes a culture of learning within the organization. Staff gain more experience using data to inform decisions which can lead to more effective and dynamic service delivery. By being aware of trends and emerging needs through annual data analysis, your organization can stay ahead of challenges and recognize new opportunities. This strategic advantage can help you to serve clients better and achieve your organization's mission.

Including staff in the CQI process with a focus on the data gathered over the fiscal year is a way to reinforce the

importance of data collection. Often, data is collected, but the analysis is not shared with everyone or in a timely manner. Doing an annual review with all program staff can ensure that everyone sees the data collection results. Further, allowing all program staff to understand how the data drives the CQI process and including them in the CQI process creates buy-in. This can motivate all staff to prioritize data entry. These and many other reasons are why the end of a fiscal year can be one of the best times to focus on data-driven CQI. Don't forget to celebrate progress you've made towards goals and positive revelations found when reviewing your data.

There are many great resources available to help your organization use your data at any stage of the CQI journey.

- [CQI Training Academy: Using Data to Implement Change Handbook, Child Welfare Capacity Building Collaborative website.](#)
- [FRIENDS website, Continuous Quality Improvement page.](#)
- 2024 Kids Count Data Book, [Annie E. Casey Foundation website](#) provides national and Pennsylvania-specific data that you can compare to your organization's data.

Share Your Story

Please send your success stories or program news to share in future News Briefs to [Drewanne Kline](#).

Pennsylvania Parents as Teachers Courses

August 26-September 9, 2024

Start Time: 8:00 AM CST

Instructors: Terry Wertman, Bethany Smith

[Register for FMI August](#)

[Register for FND August](#)

September 9-20, 2024

Start Time: 8:00 AM CST

Instructors: Terry Wertman, Bethany Smith

[Register for FMI September](#)

[Register for FND September](#)

[Register for F2](#)

Start Time: 1:00 PM CST

Instructors: Terry Wertman, Bethany Smith

Family Support Webinar

"Early Intervention Connections"

August 14, 10-11 AM ET

Registration details coming soon.





Family Support Team

Family Support at Center for Schools and Communities provides training and technical assistance to Parents as Teachers providers, Children's Trust Fund grantees, and the Strengthening Families Leadership Team.

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Safe Kids Corner

Boating

During the warm weather months, families across the country will be spending more time enjoying lakes, rivers, and oceans. Being aware of the [risks these open waters pose](#), and following these boating safety tips, can keep those outings fun.

The Hard Facts About Boating Safety

In 2018, 77 percent of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, and of those who drowned, 84 percent were not wearing a life jacket.

Top Tips for Boating Safety

Wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket when boating. Choose a life jacket that is right for your child's weight and water activity.

Young kids are at a higher risk for hypothermia, so take extra precautions to keep them warm. If your children seem cold or are shivering, wrap them tightly in a dry blanket or towel.

Learn basic water rescue skills and CPR. It is important to know how to respond in an emergency without putting yourself at risk of drowning.

Follow the U.S. Coast Guard recommendations for boating safety. Learn about available boating resources, such as [free vessel safety checks](#) and [boating safety courses](#).

Learn More About Boating Safety

Get on board and [learn more boating safety tips](#). You can also learn more about [swimming safety tips](#) and how to keep kids safe around [water in the home](#).

[Source: Safe Kids Worldwide](#)