



Ecosystem

PILLAR 1

When we speak of early childhood in Kansas, we are describing an ecosystem focused on young children and their families centered around the Blueprint's three Building Blocks—Strong Families, Early Learning, and Healthy Development. This ecosystem, depicted in the graphic on page 14, includes programs and resources from the state; the systems in which these resources are funded, administered, and evaluated; and the environment of local programming and community services designed to support thriving children and families. The early childhood ecosystem also considers other supports families may need to thrive, such as health care, behavioral health services, and employment supports.

With a focus on family well-being in addition to services that directly support young children, partners across our early childhood ecosystem are collaborating more than ever before. Kansas leaders have been shifting from insulated work within individual state agencies and moving toward more unified decision making, data sharing, and cross-cutting solutions. Goals and actions in this pillar are crafted to guide continued collaboration and to prioritize child and family well-being most efficiently to meet a wide range of needs. This Pillar is also about nurturing the ecosystem by creating new resources, increasing capacity, forming public-private partnerships, and using data to improve outcomes for all Kansas children and families.

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- **Goal 1** Strengthen the continuum of early childhood services through widespread collaboration across state and local partners.
 - **Goal 2** Connect families to the right service at the right time through comprehensive networks of resources and programs.
 - **Goal 3** Measure impact across the full continuum of early childhood services over time and use the data to make changes that reduce disparities and improve outcomes for children.
 - **Goal 4** Promote agreements between public and private sectors to expand early childhood initiatives.
 - **Goal 5** Support policies and initiatives that increase capacity, enhance quality, improve access to services, and contribute to economic security for families.
 - **Goal 6** Strengthen existing tools and create new resources to ensure providers offer families seamless transitions in support of their child's interests, healthy social-emotional development, and academic potential.

