



Experiences of Children & Families

PILLAR 3

To create the experiences our children need as described in the Blueprint, we must be laser focused on providing all Kansas families high quality, affordable services and resources that meet their needs. Ensuring these needs are met is an ongoing effort that considers the past (what have we learned from research, evaluation, bright spots, and gaps?), the present (what are parents, caregivers, professionals, and communities saying they need and want?), and the future (how can we plan and prepare for our children's future to make sure every child thrives?).

The experiences of children and families also help us gauge the health and agility of the Kansas Early Childhood Ecosystem. Meaningful family engagement is foundational. Because the experiences of children and families are influenced by many factors—their demographics, where they live and work, what services and supports they seek—engagement of families from across the state creates vital input for producing better outcomes for all Kansans. Goals and actions in this pillar support learning from lived experiences, co-creating with families, and feedback loops to ensure accountability to family voice and preference. This pillar is equally concerned with helping families access services that fulfill basic needs and support their well-being, no matter where they live and work in Kansas.

- **Goal 1** Engage families in opportunities to connect and learn while encouraging family input and acting on insights from lived experience.
- **Goal 2** Build awareness of the services available to help families make informed decisions in support of their child's interests, healthy development, and learning.
- **Goal 3** Improve child well-being by increasing access to the full range of services that prioritize safe, nurturing parent/caregiver relationships and strong families.
- **Goal 4** Prioritize the mental health of children and families by offering accessible, multi-generational services and opportunities for connection in supportive environments.
- **Goal 5** Ensure families experience respectful and responsive interactions across the full continuum of early childhood services.

