

### Systems Thinking in Early Childhood: *Changing Times*

Use these ideas and questions to build on what you've learned and extend your practice.

#### THINK ABOUT IT!

- **Self-Reflection**

Use these questions to think about your own practice.

- **Reflect with Others**

Supervisors, directors, coaches, and teachers/providers can be reflective partners.

- **The Power of Practice**

Invite a colleague to join you; observe or record each other and share ideas.

#### REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- What are some work-related events or situations that might be helpful to think about? Where would I like to focus my quality-improvement efforts?
- What trends have I noticed in my work with children and families?
- What trends in early childhood education am I interested in learning about? How do these trends affect my work?

#### TRY IT OUT!

With a coworker, think of an ongoing behavior or activity in your work setting that you'd like to understand better.

Examples:

- Children's learning experiences, such as literacy or science
- Family engagement in the program
- Individual child behavior

Now make a plan for each of you to track information about this situation or behavior. What information do you want to collect? How will you collect it? What period of time would be reasonable in order to see a trend? Set a date and time to come back together and create a behavior-over-time graph (BOTG) with the information you each have collected.

#### How Did It Go?

Share your graph with your coworker. What trend or trends do you see in the BOTG? Tell the story of the trend on your graph. Compare your story with the one of your coworker. How are your stories similar or different? What do you think might be causing the trend?

#### What Next?

What small changes can you make to improve or positively influence this situation in the future?