



As we head into 2026, the ECDHS: Evidence to Impact Center is reflecting on recent connections, events and insights that shape our work – and the resources that continue to support early childhood systems building nationwide.

TPEC Convening: Building Connections, Centering Families, Thinking Big



In September, we brought together eight Transforming Pediatrics for Early Childhood (TPEC) Resource Hubs for a two-day convening to celebrate progress, tackle challenges and envision the future of early childhood care in pediatric settings.

Three themes stood out:

- 🤝 The power of relationships
- 👨‍👩‍👧 Partnering with families every step of the way
- 💡 "Thinking big" about sustaining work over time

Teams shared how trust and collaboration – with pediatric practices, communities and families – make real progress possible. They also discussed how to elevate family voices so that parents and caregivers help shape the agenda, not just sit at the table.

Interactive sessions, like a “dolphin tank” pitch and a “go bag” reflection, inspired TPEC Hubs to share creative ideas and sustainable strategies, from funding family resource specialists to strengthening maternal depression screening and building data systems that tell families’ stories.



Explore our [Transforming Pediatrics webpage](#) for tools and information drawn from the experiences of the TPEC Hubs.

Sharing Research Insights at the LEARN Conference

At the ZERO TO THREE LEARN Conference in October, our team connected with early childhood professionals from across the country to share the Center’s systems-building work and resources. Research Manager Kendall McElroy presented a poster highlighting findings from research completed in collaboration with Center partners and health care providers about what helps – and hinders – building family trust in early childhood developmental health systems.



The research underscored that family trust is essential to effective care. Providers emphasized four key components related to trust: reliable referral partners, attuning to families, early relational health and warm hand-offs. However, there are also challenges to implementing programs and practices, such as resource allocation and workforce issues.

“This [well-child visit] isn’t a one-time conversation, right? It’s like longitudinally building that trust, building that collaborative discussion little bits by little bits to steer that boat together.”
-Research Participant

At the LEARN Conference, we had engaging conversations with practitioners and researchers in home visiting, early education, pediatrics and more who expressed enthusiasm for applying these insights in their work.

- 📖 You can read more about this research in our [blog post](#) from earlier this year.
- 📅 Interested in attending next year’s LEARN Conference? Learn more [here](#).

ICYMI: How a Texas Health Center Transforms Care Through Early Relational Health

Earlier this year, we spotlighted People’s Community Clinic in Austin, TX, where family engagement and early relational health are at the heart of pediatric care. Dr. Louis Appel and Dr. Christina Bethell share practical tools that health care providers, community health center staff and early childhood professionals can use to strengthen connections with families. They also highlight how everyday interactions drive broader systems change.

[Explore the Piece](#)

Featured Resources

A few highlights from our resource library to support your work for young children and families.

Getting Started Guide: Implementing a Screening Process

A [fillable worksheet](#) to help pediatric teams develop a screening workflow tailored for their practice and the families they serve. It includes step-by-step planning considerations and questions, implementation guidance and links to additional resources.

Social-Emotional Billing and Coding Guide

This [guide](#) is designed for all pediatric providers, including pediatricians, family medicine providers, integrated mental health professionals and other specialists who work with children ages 0-5. It includes guidance on how to screen for social-emotional development, as well as when and how to screen for perinatal depression, developmental delays, autism and social or emotional concerns.

Systems-Building Webinar Takeaways

Catch up on recordings and highlights from [our previous webinars](#) on family engagement, partnerships, developmental screening and other key systems-building topics.



The [Early Childhood Developmental Health Systems \(ECDHS\): Evidence to Impact Center](#) focuses on building and advancing early childhood systems to improve and strengthen the health and well-being of babies and toddlers’ most crucial years of development. ZERO TO THREE leads the ECDHS: Evidence to Impact Center in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics, Help Me Grow National Center, Family Voices, James Bell Associates and Thrive Center for Children, Families, and Communities at Georgetown University.

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