

Houston's ECE Quality Bright Spots: Collaborative for Children's Centers of Excellence (COE)

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We Define Quality Child Care by Teachers + Business Excellence.

CC measures Teachers' Competencies:

Instructional
Practices

Responsive
Interaction

Learning
Environment

Observation &
Assessment

CC measures Child Care Business Acumen:

Every COE center has both a Business Specialist and an Instructional Specialist.

Research finds that Business + Instructional success = children's emergent literacy, math and social emotional learning.

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What Drives Quality: Supports and Resources That Improve Outcomes

01

Relationship-Based Teacher Coaching

648 visits across 62 centers (BOY-25). Same specialist, same teacher, consistent schedule. Learning Environment proficiency: **63% → 81%**. Responsive Interaction: **61% → 78%**. Relationship continuity is the mechanism driving quality.

02

1:1 Business Coaching

Every COE center follows the Child Care Iron Triangle (revenue covers expenses, costs per child, optimal capacity). The average COE increased monthly income from **\$20,000 to \$60,000** and increased enrollment by **15%**.

03

Three Children's Progress Monitoring Cycles

BOY / MOY / EOY accessible, centralized data system means teachers see each child's progress. In 2025, **95%** of children showed literacy and math growth and **80%** showed SEL growth.

04

Standard Teachers' Professional Development and Resources

Development includes STEM integration, neurodiversity, SEL, school readiness, and data literacy — both in-person and virtual formats. Teachers receive hands-on resources: KIBO coding robots, Conscious Discipline SEL bundles, e-DECA assessment tools, and digital progress-monitoring technology.

Opportunities to Scale the COE System

Opportunity 1

Require TRS Mentors to provide stronger business and instructional competencies and resources.

Opportunity 2

Pre-K partnerships now awarded to higher instructional quality 3 and 4-star rated TRS centers.

Opportunity 3

Use Pre-K partnership teacher retention funds to pay a livable wage to retain teachers.

Opportunity 4

Reduce TRS childcare subsidy wait list by streamlining public Pre-K and private subsidy eligibility.

BIG TAKEAWAYS

**A. Standard Teacher +
Business Professional Development
+ real-time data**

= school readiness

You can't target what you can't see.

B. Governor's centralized office to govern ECE across the 4 agencies

We support the whole teacher. We sustain the whole Child Care center and its families. That is how quality becomes a system. When all are present, children win.