

This year (and next), DCYF is offering a voluntary opportunity to PAT programs to test out the use of 2 assessments to measure Parent Child Interaction and Caregiver Well-Being. DCYF is exploring which outcomes are the best fit for PAT and which assessment tools are most accurate in capturing program success while also being the most useful tools to home visitors in supporting families. Measurement piloting will help DCYF learn the best and most meaningful way to measure these PAT outcomes and support planning for performance based contracting (where programs may earn *additional payment* above their contract payments based on their performance on set measures).

## Two Assessment Tools: HFPI and PICCOLO

### HEALTHY FAMILIES PARENTING INVENTORY (HFPI)

The HFPI is a PAT recognized tool that was designed specifically to be used in home visiting settings. A questionnaire, HFPI takes about 20 minutes for parents to complete and is available in a multitude of languages. The 63 questions are divided into 9 parenting domains, each highly relevant to home visiting outcomes and practice:

- Social Support
- Problem Solving
- Depression
- Personal Care
- Mobilizing Resources
- Role Satisfaction
- Parent/Child Interaction
- Home Environment
- Parenting Efficacy

Each question offers a 5-point scale response (from rarely to always). The questionnaire may be used starting at the birth of a child and then every 6 months afterwards; sometimes home visitors use the questionnaire more like an interview with families.

### PARENTING INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN: CHECKLIST OF OBSERVATIONS LINKED TO OUTCOMES (PICCOLO)

The PICCOLO is both PAT and MIECHV recognized and was also designed specifically to be used in home visiting settings. It is an observational checklist administered by the home visitor while observing interactions of the parent and child during a pre-determined activity, lasting 10 minutes. Best practice use of the assessment is to video-record the parent-child activity and for the home visitor to complete the checklist while watching the video, rating the interactions between the child and parent with the checklist, which contains 29-items in 4 domains:

- Affection
- Responsiveness
- Encouragement
- Teaching

The rating is along a 3-point scale (0,1,2) – is the behavior strongly/frequently evident, partially/briefly emerging, or absent. The scores may be used by the home visitor in goal setting with the family on responsive parenting. The checklist is valid for use between parent-child dyads once the child is 4 months old and measurements may be taken 4 to 6 months apart.

## Purpose of Testing

By testing these tools with a subset of our parent educators, we are hoping to learn the following:

- How does the assessment process work with each tool - what works well and potential problems?

- What is the achievable and realistic range of scores for families in the first and second set of measurements? Can we see enough change to support performance contracting?
- Do home visitors and families benefit from using the tools? If so, how?

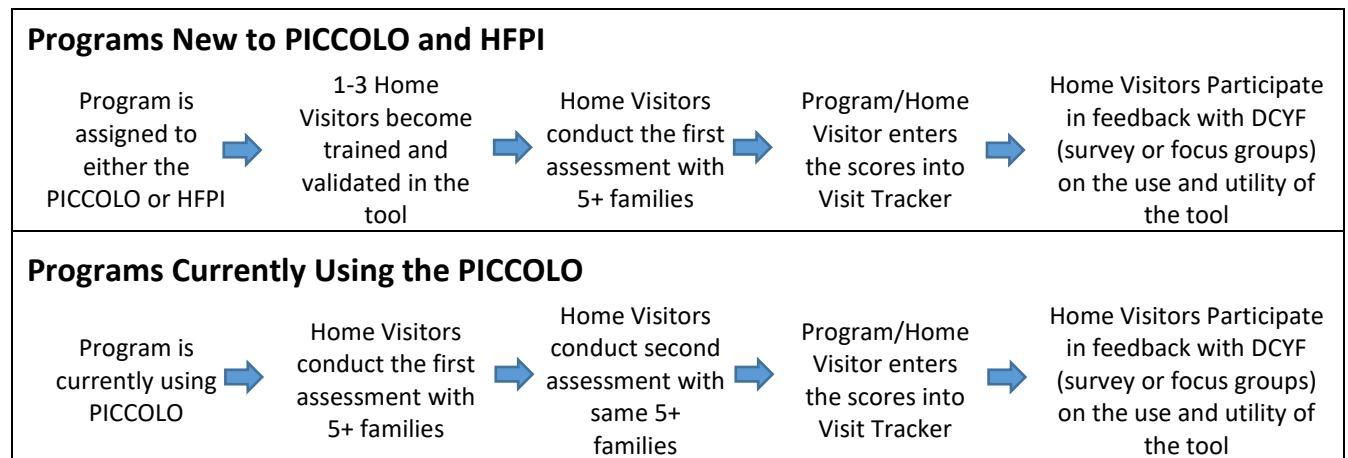
By answering these questions, it will help us to determine which tools or which domains of the tools we should move forward with, and how to help spread this to all DCYF/HVSA-funded parent educators.

## Timeline Testing

We will spend the next 2 state fiscal years piloting:

- Training on either of the tools (November 2021 through 2022)
- Parent Educators use the assessment with families/parent-child dyads and enter the scores in Visit Tracker (January 2022 through June 2023)
- DOH analyses the scores data (January 2022 through June 2023)
- DCYF conducts feedback sessions to learn from home visitors on use of the tools (April-May 2022 and March-April 2023)
- DCYF shares learnings with the field and determines performance milestones in contract (May – June 2023)

## Process for Testing



## Program Incentives

Home Visitors participating in this pilot will earn incentive dollars for their organization to further support their program:

1. Home Visitors completing training and reliable in *new* use of PICCOLO, HFPI or both (\$500)
2. Use the tool with 5 enrolled parent-child dyads and share that data with DOH (via Visit Tracker) \$150 per 5 dyads
  - For the current PICCOLO users, follow-up 6 months later using the tool with same 5 enrolled parent-child dyads and share data \$30 per dyad
3. Participate in feedback activity with DCYF on use and utility of tool (\$100)