

ASSESSING PROGRESS AND RECOGNIZING SUCCESS

What is an Evaluation?

An evaluation is the systematic collection, analysis and reporting of information for decision-making. Evaluation is not separate from planning. Rather, this step is built into the process in order to continually inform our decision-making and actions. Think of it as the continuous “plan-act-reflect” loop.

Why do Evaluation?

Collaboratives committed to achieving their goals will want to know how they are progressing.

Working together to plan and implement change takes a tremendous amount of time, energy, and resources. We want to know if our efforts are paying off – is our work really making a difference in young children’s lives? Groups eager for continuous improvement will ask, “How can we do better based on what we’ve learned?” Evaluation provides valuable information to assess what’s working and what’s not. Additionally, evaluating our work allows us to:

- ✓ Become a learning community.
- ✓ Collect information to help track progress.
- ✓ Make informed decisions.
- ✓ Adjust plans and strategies.
- ✓ Communicate information to the community, policy makers, grant makers, and media.
- ✓ Meet requirements of funders.
- ✓ Share lessons learned with other communities.
- ✓ Celebrate success.

**How will we
know if we’ve
been successful?
How will we
learn from
what we do?**

A COMMUNITY COMMITTED TO LEARNING
(OR A LEARNING COMMUNITY)

