Alaska’s Early Childhood System
Birth through age 8*

Red = State EC Advisory Council
Yellow = National & State Best Practices
Blue = Out-of-home EC programs
Orange = EC Standards for programs & professionals
Green = Alaska’s supports & funding resources
Violet = EC supports & programs in the child’s home
Light Blue = Children & families

*Includes licensed programs serving children through age 12
Alaska’s Early Childhood System

This document describes Alaska’s Early Care and Learning System, a subcommittee of the Alaska’s Early Childhood Coordinating Council (AECCC).

The rainbow visually represents the various layers of the Alaska early care and learning programs, supports, and resources. The chart identifies oversight agency, funding sources, service type, and includes a to-date approximation of children served by each program.

All of Alaska’s early care and learning partners work to ensure the following common goals:

1. Communities have healthy and sustainable early care and learning programs and workforce.
2. Children and families are safe, healthy, and resilient.
3. Early childhood partners identify and can provide support for Alaska’s children who are most in need of support.
4. Children are more prepared to enter and succeed in the P-12 educational system.

Alaska’s Early Childhood Rainbow

The purpose of Alaska’s Early Childhood Coordinating Council (AECCC) is to promote positive development, improved health outcomes, and school readiness for children prenatal through age eight by creating a culturally responsive, comprehensive, and accessible service delivery system that links service providers, empowers families, and engages communities.

AECCC shall support the creation of a unified, sustainable system of early care, health, education, and family support.

Two statewide systems are designed to set standards of practice for early care and learning programs.

1. Alaska System for Early Education Development (SEED) identifies, supports, and develops standards for individuals working in the early care and learning profession.
2. Learn & Grow (L&G), Alaska’s Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS), identifies and supports quality standards for early care and learning programs.

National standards, state standards, and best practices that provide direction on how to improve the quality of early care and learning.

Programs that provide fiscal support, federal and state regulatory guidance, training and education, technical assistance to early care and learning (ECL) programs, monitor ECL data, education to families and facilitate public private partnerships to increase investment in ECL.

Early childhood center-based learning and care services: licensed child care centers and group homes, Head Start, Early Head Start, pre-elementary, and afterschool programs serving children through age 12.

Early childhood home and community-based services: licensed and approved child care homes and group homes, approved child care homes, Parents as Teachers, Infant Learning/Early Intervention, Nurse Family Partnership, and Early Head Start Home Visiting.