

# Extending the Reach of Home Visiting

Series on Home Visiting's Connections to Larger Systems of Support

Early childhood home visiting is a service delivery strategy that matches expectant parents and caregivers of young children with a designated support person—typically an early childhood specialist, a social worker, a nurse, or paraprofessional—who guides them through the early stages of preparing for and raising a family. Services are voluntary, may include caregiver coaching and connecting families to needed services, and are provided in the family's home or another location of the family's choice. It is a proven strategy that helps families support their children's development during the first five years of life. [Home visiting has demonstrated impacts](#) on **health, safety, and school readiness of children; maternal health; and family stability and financial security**. Studies have found a [return on investment](#) (ROI) of \$1.80 to \$5.70 for every dollar spent. This strong ROI is consistent with other types of early childhood interventions. As with other disciplines, findings are dependent on the context in which families are living.

Despite its promise, the true reach of home visiting is limited. According to the [2026 Home Visiting Yearbook](#), there were more than 16.7 million pregnant women and families with young children who could benefit from home visiting, and only 1.8% of all potential beneficiaries, or 3.9% of high priority families, received services.

It is well understood that to reach more families, home visiting cannot go it alone. Collaborative partnerships are needed across the early childhood ecosystem – **child care, elementary education, mental health, housing, and child welfare**. When home visiting is a service delivery strategy supported by or embedded within these other systems, both the reach and benefits of home visiting will grow.

This series of brief papers focuses on home visiting's connection to these other systems. Within each paper you will find a description of the intersection between the systems, examples from the field of how they can work together, tips for getting started with cross system collaboration, and a resource list for more information.

***“We’ve worked hard to build home visiting into a field. Now, it’s time to build deep partnerships with our sister fields so that we can infuse the best of home visiting throughout the early childhood ecosystem.”***

***~ Deborah Roderick Stark, Co-Facilitator  
National Home Visiting Network***

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