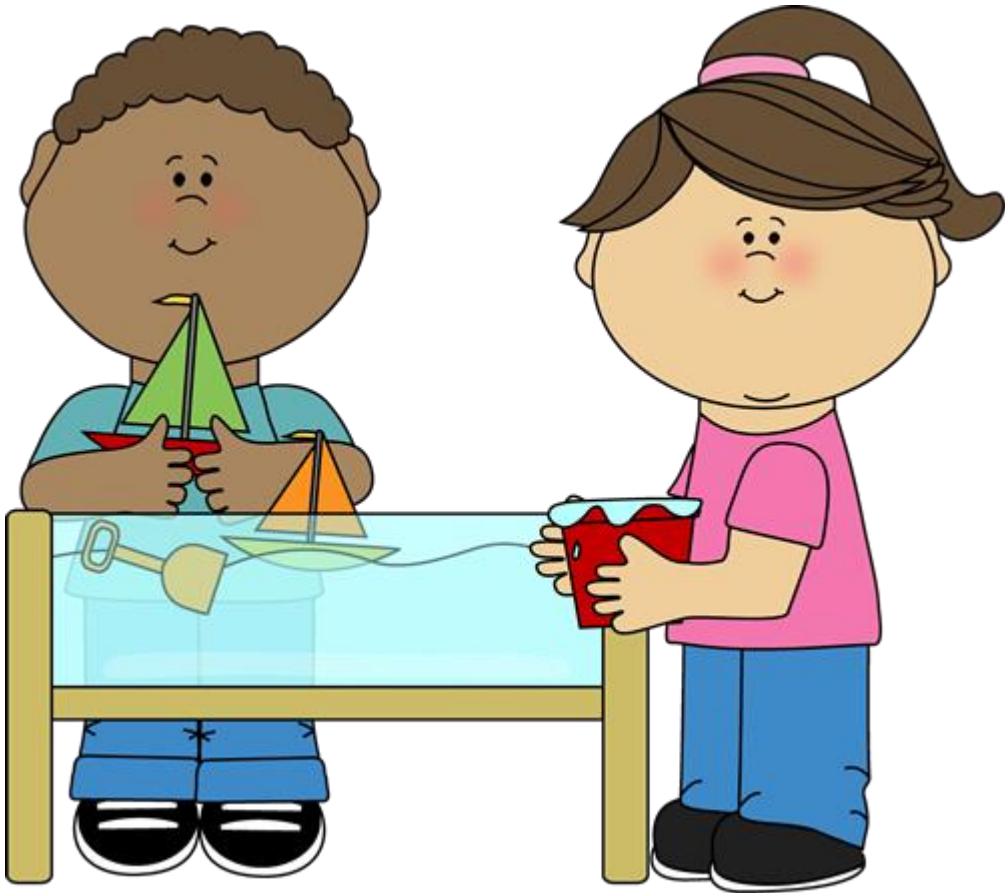


# Building Early Links for Learning

Midpoint  
Forum Overview  
March 16, 2017



# Building Early Links for Learning 'Big picture'



- Promoting Resilience
  - Children who experience risk but do well in life
  - Add protection; Remove risk
  - Keep development on course

# Homelessness as risk – Threats to development

## CHRONIC:

- Extreme poverty
- Challenges for parents
  - Limited educational backgrounds
  - Unemployment
  - Disability, mental illness
- Lack of social support
- History of stressful events/trauma
- Residential instability

## ACUTE:

- Loss of housing, possessions
- Challenges for parents
  - Domestic violence / other serious relationship problem
  - Loss of control in shelter
  - New requirements in shelter
- Disconnected from family, friends, community
- Ongoing stress or trauma
- Crowded living spaces



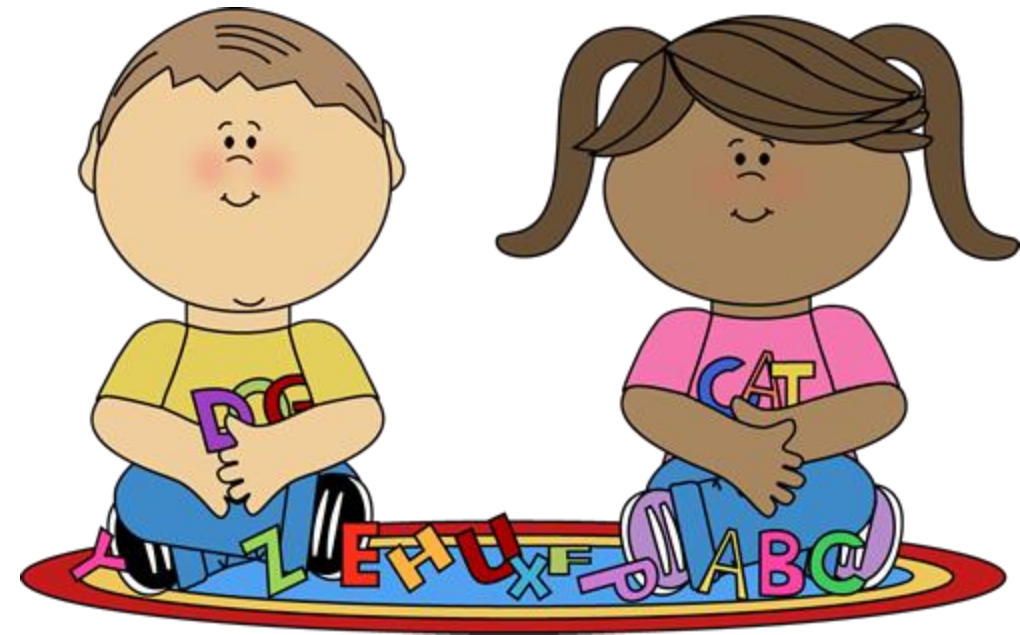
Homelessness



# Building Early Links for Learning

Primary goals:

- 1) Enhance developmental friendliness of emergency and transitional housing (EH/TH)
- 2) Increase enrollment in quality early childhood education for children in EH/TH



# Key Strategies

- Increase developmental friendliness of emergency and transitional housing  
*ACF Early Childhood Self-Assessment for Family Shelters*
  - Physical improvements / Resources
  - Policy and practices
  - Professional development
- Increase connections to quality Early Childhood Education (ECE)
  - Information: Benefits of quality ECE for children
  - Ask the question: Support parents in pursuing ECE
  - Relationships with quality ECE facilities near EH/TH
  - How to: Qualifying for and enrolling in existing Pre-K programs
  - Innovating: Models of providing ECE to families experiencing homelessness

# Blueprint for today

- **Developmental friendliness**
  - Spaces and Policies
- **Preschool Challenges?**
  - Can we know who's going? Who's not?
  - Parent and Provider Perspectives
  - Supply and demand: What's available nearby?
- **Preschool Solutions?**
  - Landscape
  - A model that links
- **Next steps**

