The purpose of the Evaluation of Developmental Monitoring Using LTSAE in Childcare Settings was to:

- identify enablers and barriers to acceptability, feasibility, & effectiveness of family-engaged developmental monitoring.
- evaluate the acceptability, feasibility, and effectiveness of developmental monitoring using LTSAE on provider-parent communication and relationships.

Methods

- Mixed-methods data collection approach
- Focus groups to inform implementation and gather acceptability data
- Implementation across two conditions: training-only and Training+TA
- Focus groups
  - 1 parent/1 ECEP in urban WI
  - 1 parent/1 ECEP in suburban/small city WI
- Training-only
  - pre- and post-survey, and delayed (3-month) surveys
- Training+TA
  - 9-month training and technical assistance intervention
  - semi-structured focus groups at 1, 3, 6, 9, and about 18 months
  - pre- and post-training, and delayed (9-month) surveys of ECEP
  - post-implementation survey of parents
  - convenience sample inclusive of urban, suburban/small city, rural
  - 18 childcare programs
  - 5 urban WI
  - 4 suburban/small city WI
  - 5 rural WI
  - 4 religiously-affiliated "ministry" IN
  - 153 ECEPs, 18 childcare directors, and 156 parents

Findings

- Focus group data suggest that trusting and respectful relationships were a key factor enabling effective communication about developmental concerns for both parents and ECEPs.
  - They also start with having that relationship with the family from the day 1 when they’re at your program. Before you’re sharing things that might be a little bit more challenging, you’ve built up this relationship with them, so that they know that you are doing what you think is the best.
  - "...build a relationship with the parents, and then they’re more receptive to concerns in the future because we’ve built that relationship." (ECEP – suburban/small city)
  - "They can start by saying ‘it’s all okay. It’s going to be okay and it’s all okay. But let’s talk about this.” You have to start by saying it’s okay.” (parent – suburban/small city)

- Parents are especially okay with ECEP training and their development concerning parents talking to each other, especially when they have a positive relationship with the ECEP and are satisfied with their childcare experience.
  - 4 religiously-affiliated “ministry” IN
  - 4 suburban/small city WI
  - 5 urban WI

- Qualitative data analyses demonstrate that ECEPs express least acceptance of sharing concerns and suggesting parents talk to their child’s doctor.
  - Perception that sharing concerns implies level of expertise and certainty many ECEPs don’t feel they have:
  - Perception that parents will be upset, angry, or pick on their child
  - Perception that doctors prioritize physical over developmental concerns or will say ‘wait and see’

- Using LTSAE made it easier to talk to parents when I had a concern about an aspect of how their child was developing.
  - How frequently ECEPs talk to parents when they have a concern
  - How frequently ECEPs talk to parents about next steps when they have a concern

- Parent comfort talking about their child’s development with ECEP is predicted by parent perception of ECEP availability to talk about parents’ concerns and parent satisfaction with childcare.
  - Satisfaction with ECEP and perceived availability of ECEP explained 71% of the difference in parent comfort between sites (Pseudo R² = .71) and 33% of the differences in comfort expressed by parents within sites (Pseudo R² = .33)

References: