

Caring for Our Children Basics: To Be or Not To Be

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I have been observing a very interesting phenomenon and trying to determine the best avenue to resolve what I am observing. I am observing this with my hat on as a former state ECE administrator and not as an ECE researcher. I have spent my professional career wearing both hats, probably about an equal amount of time.

We presently have a set of ECE standards that have been peer reviewed distilling them into a document called: ***Caring for Our Children Basics (CFOCB)***. ***CFOCB*** is a core set of the most predictive and risk aversive health and safety standards when not complied with which place young children while in ECE programs at greatest risk of morbidity and mortality. They will be provided to states from ACF/OCC in a totally voluntary fashion providing guidance on what state ECE rules/regulations should look like at a minimum within the overall framework of CCDBG/CCDF.

Now as a former state administrator I am asking myself, why wouldn't I just use the ***CFOCB*** standards for my core standards as the keystone for a differential monitoring ECE quality assurance licensing system?! I would think that this would be the most cost effective and efficient approach where I will be able to meet federal guidelines and have a well-researched set of state standards for licensing that has gone through the most rigorous risk assessment and key indicator assessments.

Those who know me probably think I have lost my mind because I have just given away a rather lucrative line of consulting related to differential monitoring, risk assessment and key indicators because if state administrators take what I am proposing to heart, there is no need to develop other state specific risk assessment and key indicator systems. But my hope when I entered the ECE field 40+ years ago was that I would put myself out of a job and I think with the advent of ***CFOCB***, I have finally accomplished that task.