

## Quick Guide: Types of Direct Service in Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) Programs

The purpose of this document is to provide information on types of direct service provided in Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) programs.

### Direct Service

The term direct service refers to services provided by a parenting educator while in direct contact with a parent/adult learner.

The following classification of types of direct service offered in ECFE programs is intended to be used to help program staff and others better understand and describe what is offered in ECFE. **Type 5\* is the basic service offered.** Other types of service are offered as modifications of this basic service to meet the needs of the diversity of families eligible for ECFE. It is recommended that a major portion of the program budget is spent on Type 5\* service with other services provided as needed to serve a representative cross-section of eligible families.

### The following are listed in order of intensity:

**Type 1:** Outreach and family and community events, for example, workshops and speakers, drop-in activities, gym nights, field trips, newborn hospital visits, and home visits to families new to the community.

**Type 2:** Multiple home visits, WIC clinic visits, and child care provider visits.

**Type 3:** Parents only series, for example, work site, prison site, women's shelter.

**Type 4:** Parent-child together (no separation) series, for example, infant classes.

**Type 5:** Basic program series with parent education/discussion, early childhood education, and parent-child interaction.

**Note:** Direct services of this type (Type 5) may be provided in collaboration with community partners such as Head Start, Early Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education, Interagency Early Intervention Committees (IEICs), Child Care, Public Health, Social Services, Family Services Collaboratives, etc.

**Type 6:** Increased service only, for example, basic program series with specialists (public health nurse, social worker, mental health specialist, special educator, etc.), in addition to early child and parent education staff (apartment programs, special needs classes, etc.).

**Type 7:** Increased time only, for example, basic program series more than once a week with or without specialists in addition to regular staff.

**Type 8:** Increased time and service, for example, basic program series with specialists (public health nurse, social worker, mental health specialist, special educator, etc.), in addition to early child and parent

education staff more than once a week (teen parent programs, family literacy/Even Start programs, programs for families experiencing multiple stresses, etc.

If you have further questions, contact the Minnesota Department of Education, Early Learning Services:  
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