



Who interacts with Spark?

211info: Parent Referral – 211info includes Spark rating information when making childcare referrals to parents/caregivers

Infant and Toddler Initiatives – Baby Promise and other infant and toddler initiatives use Spark as a framework of best practices for participating programs. Baby Promise requires participation in Spark

Hubs – Hubs serve 16 regions across the state as conveners of early learning system partners to meet three statutory goals: (1) create a system that is aligned, coordinated, and family centered; (2) ensure that children arrive at school ready to succeed; and (3) ensure young children live in families that are healthy, stable, and attached. Hubs locally administer some Early Learning Division initiatives including Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation (KPI) and Early Childhood Education Sector Planning. These plans help CCR&Rs prioritize the services they provide to the priority populations identified in the regional plans. More information about Early Learning Hubs can be found [here](#).

Early Educators- Early educators participate in Spark at the program level, as a framework to guide best practices in early learning, recognize strengths, and identify areas for quality improvement. Early educators also provide feedback to assist us in continuous quality improvements of the Spark system.

Families- Families use Spark to understand best practices in early learning programs and to assist in making choices for early care and education programs for their children

Head Start – Federally funded programs that promote school readiness of children ages birth to five from low-income families by supporting the development of the whole child.

Preschool Promise – Preschool Promise is a model for a public-funded, high quality preschool system. Settings include traditional preschools, family child care, school districts, and child care centers. Local Hubs coordinate enrollment and provide other supports to providers. The purpose of the program is to better prepare children for kindergarten and to close the opportunity gap associated with socioeconomic and other demographic factors.

OPK – Oregon modeled Oregon Pre-kindergarten (OPK) after Head Start to expand high-quality early learning opportunities for the lowest income and highest need preschool children from three to five years of age. In the 2019 legislative session, OPK was authorized as a prenatal to five program.

Culturally Specific Organizations- CBO's provide training and support to early care and education program and families in their communities. Spark provides a framework of quality practices. CBO's also play a key role in assisting us in making Spark inclusive and culturally and linguistically relevant and appropriate

DHS- DHS supports Spark by providing a higher rate of reimbursement to Spark rated programs as well as a lower co-pay to families who chose a Spark rated program for their children.

Inclusive Partners- Inclusive Partners provides support and education for early learning programs and families to foster inclusive environments for children with special needs, using Spark standards as part of the framework for doing so. IP also provides guidance to us to ensure that our standards are inclusive and appropriate for children with special needs and their families.