

## THE HISTORY OF EARLY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

### ***Since the 60's ...***

numerous early education programs have operated partnership programs to extend resources and permit greater flexibility and innovations for children and their families. In the 1970's the federally funded Comprehensive Community Coordinated Child Care initiative provided a vehicle for early education programs to link together and with other community programs to enhance services to children.

### ***The ACF Child Care and Head Start Bureaus ...***

have worked closely to encourage and support early education partnerships. From forging federal interagency and other national partnership, to embracing a unified vision for comprehensive, high quality early education services for children, the government recognizes the power and potential of community early education partnerships.

### ***1990 ACF State Collaboration Grants ...***

funded by ACF to provide states with a mechanism to link and strengthen services for children. These state collaboration projects, together with numerous other entities, have successfully forged new linkages and paved the way for existing and future early education partnerships.

### ***Early Education Funding Incentives ...***

provide local child care, Head Start and prekindergarten programs with funding incentives to partner. For example, the 1997 Head Start program competitive expansion grant review criteria stipulated that proposals demonstrating partnership with child care for the provision of full day/full year services would receive 10 extra points.

### ***Welfare Reform ...***

legislation with its eligibility time limits increased the early education system with many more children, ages birth and up, needing care while their parents went to work. It was projected that almost 2/3 of this care would be needed during non-traditional center care hours.

### ***Head Start Reauthorization (1998) ...***

created new mandates for State Head Start Collaboration offices to link with State Child Care offices and resource and referral agencies and to foster unified planning for quality full day/full year services. State Collaboration offices have received supplemental funding some years to foster unified plans for early education.

*Adapted from QUILT materials.*