



Principles of Peer Review: Understanding the Process

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A Service of the Children's Bureau

Peer Review Definition

- Peer review brings together 2 programs in a mentoring relationship and facilitates the sharing of expertise and information.
- Peer review is an opportunity for a program to learn, share ideas and strategies with a program that provides similar services.
- Program staff members, parents, and administrators help to review each center's strengths and identify areas for potential improvement.

Peer Review is NOT-

- **A tool that allows funders, state, or county governments to monitor a program and its services.**

Purpose of Peer Review

- Meet CBCAP Federal program requirements
- Ensure the delivery of useful and high quality services to local families served by the program
- Consider aspects of sustainability
- Encourage the development of networks and mentoring

Purpose of Peer Review (cont.)

- Clarify areas for program improvement and develop long-range plans to enhance practice
- Promote accountability to peer programs, communities, and families that receive services
- Provide an opportunity to identify areas for technical assistance

Principles of Peer Review

- **Peer Review is built on family support principles**
 - **Staff and families work together in relationships based on equality and respect**
 - **Families are resources to their own members, other families and communities**
 - **Programs affirm the communities multiculturalism**
 - **Programs offer services that are fair, responsive, and accountable**
 - **Programs are flexible and responsive to emerging issues**

Nuts and Bolts of Peer Review

- 1) Form a peer review team
- 2) Attend a peer review training
- 3) Identify the additional self-assessment tool
- 4) Complete the self-assessment tool
- 5) Arrange with your partner center for the site visit
- 6) Close the loop

Closing the Loop

- What do you do once you have completed the assessment
 - Identify the program strengths identified
 - Evaluate the plan developed for addressing recommended strategies for program enhancement
 - Include this information in your reporting to the board and funders

Self-Assessments

- Partner programs can (but don't have to) choose one additional assessment to complete based on interests and areas for focus
- This assessment should be based on mutual program interests and areas for improvement

Available Assessments

- Governance
- Outreach/Engaging Families
- Programs and Activities
- Parent Education and Child Development
- Working One-on One with Families
- Relationships with the community
- Center Environment
- Home Visiting
- Staff Roles and Capacities
- Monitoring and Evaluation