

Theory of Action

Vermont's strategies will improve the social and emotional functional development of infants and toddlers by: aligning with other State and community initiatives to maximize resources and unify messages about social and emotional development; fostering family connections to increase social interactions and promote family advocacy and leadership skills; and increasing early intervention practitioners' expertise to support families to help their infants and toddlers develop and improve functional social and emotional skills.

SIMR: *Families help their infants and toddlers develop and learn functional social and emotional skills, and infants and toddlers substantially improve their social and emotional functional development.*

Rationale: Supporting social and emotional development fosters positive relationships for children within their families, school and community. Parents are their child's first and most important teachers. CIS-EI strategies directly and positively impact families' ability to support their children's healthy social and emotional development. All learning happens in the context of relationships. Therefore, CIS-EI believes that, with the help of their families and caregivers, children's social and emotional skills will improve enabling them to form positive relationships with other adults and with their peers, so they can maximize their learning across all developmental domains.

	State Level	Regional Level	Practitioner Level	Family Level	Child Level
Alignment Across Initiatives	... If CIS-EI aligns with other State & community initiatives associated with improving children's social and emotional development...	... then regional CIS-EI and their community partners will receive consistent messages, tools and resources associated with children's social and emotional development...	... then CIS-EI practitioners will receive consistent messages and resources prioritizing children's social and emotional development across all programs in their community...	... then families hear consistent messages across all services, receive parent education and effective strategies for helping their child develop and learn social and emotional skills within the context of their family's natural routines...	... then infants and toddlers will improve their social and emotional functional development to improve their quality of life now and in their future.
Personnel Development	... If CIS-EI promulgates a comprehensive system of personnel development with standards associated with family engagement and social and emotional development...	... then regional CIS-EI will have a framework to identify trainings for and provide supervision to practitioners around screening, developing outcomes, implementing strategies and engaging families about children's social and emotional development...	... then CIS-EI practitioners will receive consultation, training, tools, information and supervision. This will increase practitioner's longevity in their positions and increase their expertise to engage with families, interpret screening and evaluation results and identify functional outcomes to improve children's social and emotional development...	... then families will access resources to learn advocacy and leadership skills to help them provide effective input into the direct services their child receives, and the regional and state-level programs that provide the infrastructure for those services...	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Ongoing Evaluation </div> <p>Vermont will continually evaluate the effectiveness of planned strategies, making improvements as needed.</p>
Fostering Family Connections	... If CIS-EI provides a framework prioritizing activities that improve family connections and opportunities to learn advocacy and leadership skills...	... then regional CIS-EI will provide opportunities for families learn advocacy and leadership skills and will partner with families so they are able get family input for program/service improvements...	... then CIS-EI practitioners will get input from parents/caregivers about what they need to support their children's healthy social and emotional development...	... then families will participate in community activities, expand their natural social connections and supports, and help their children develop social and emotional skills...	
Targeted Supports For Families	... If CIS-EI supports 3 regions to implement & evaluate the effectiveness of evidence-based strategies targeted at improving social & emotional functional development...	... then regional CIS-EI will focus on evidence-based strategies and priorities individualized to their region's strengths and capacity for improvements...	... then CIS-EI practitioners will support families using evidence-based approaches that support their children's development and provide opportunities for families and their children to build positive social connections...		