

Early childhood health

NARRATIVES AND HEALTH EQUITY: EXPANDING THE CONVERSATION

Safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments are essential for a healthy infancy and childhood. Families, businesses, government, and community organizations all play a role in creating these conditions. The emerging narrative highlights these conditions and roles for assuring that all children can be healthy. MDH and local health departments developed this narrative.

Every child in every family deserves a healthy start.

1. Health is developed in a context of community that lifts up all voices—inclusive of all races, ethnicities, and backgrounds.
2. All parents want what’s best for their children; it’s the community’s role to create the conditions in which this is actually possible.
3. Every child is attached to a family and every family is attached to a community.

Health care—medical and clinical care—is an important component of health but, over the span of people’s lives, other factors have a greater overall impact on health.

4. Children will be successful in their families if families feel (are) included and successful within their communities.
5. Safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments are created in multiple settings in multiple ways. All—families, businesses, government, and community organizations—have a role in creating these conditions.

The community has a key role as protector and caretaker of children; communities must be supported in this role.

6. Racism hurts the health and well-being of children, families, and communities.
7. Children thrive when they are in a safe environment where community wisdom shapes that environment.
8. Every child is inherently valuable to the community
9. Assimilation to whiteness is neither possible nor desirable for our children.

For narrative frames on other topics, visit:

Minnesota Department of Health
Healthy Minnesota Partnership
www.health.state.mn.us/healthymnpartnership
651-201-3880 health.ophp@state.mn.us