

# Creating and Enhancing Toolkit for Head Start Teachers, Staff, and Parents to Promote Child Development

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## Goals

1. Refine and update existing toolkit materials for Head Start teachers and parents
2. Create additional materials on social-emotional development, Individualized Education Program (IEP), and tantrum management based upon parent feedback
3. Collaborate with Head Start policy partners and parent advisory boards
4. Create an audio-visual component to the toolkit

## Background

- Children in poverty are 40-60% more likely to have developmental delays
- On average, African American/Black and Latinx/Hispanic children are diagnosed with developmental disabilities two years later than non-minority children
- Early diagnosis, intervention, and treatment improves child outcomes in long-term development and academic success
- Head Start provides early education for low-income families and their children from birth to age five which is funded by the Ohio Department of Education
  - Head Start is uniquely poised to enrich the development of children at-risk and to connect children to services

## Results

### Toolkit enhancements

- 9 total handouts were added to the toolkit in the areas of social-emotional activities ages 0-5 years, IEP basics, and managing temper tantrums
- Handouts within the toolkit were converted into 20 animated videos to promote accessibility

### Qualitative feedback

- Teachers reported the toolkit materials were beneficial to guide conversation in parent-teacher conferences and for monitoring developmental progress
- Parents reported the toolkit materials will be helpful to promote developmental skills at home

## Methods

- Met with Head Start Parent Policy Council to obtain relevant feedback for revisions and additional materials
- Established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Parent Policy Council to define scope/responsibilities of LEND and Head Start
- Referenced evidence-based materials from national, regional, and local sources to enhance the toolkit
- Created additional toolkit materials recommended by Head Start parents
- Transferred the written toolkit to Visme® for better visual appeal
- Expanded accessibility by converting written materials to animated videos using Vyond® tool

## Toolkit Materials

### ACTIVITIES HANDOUTS AND VIDEOS

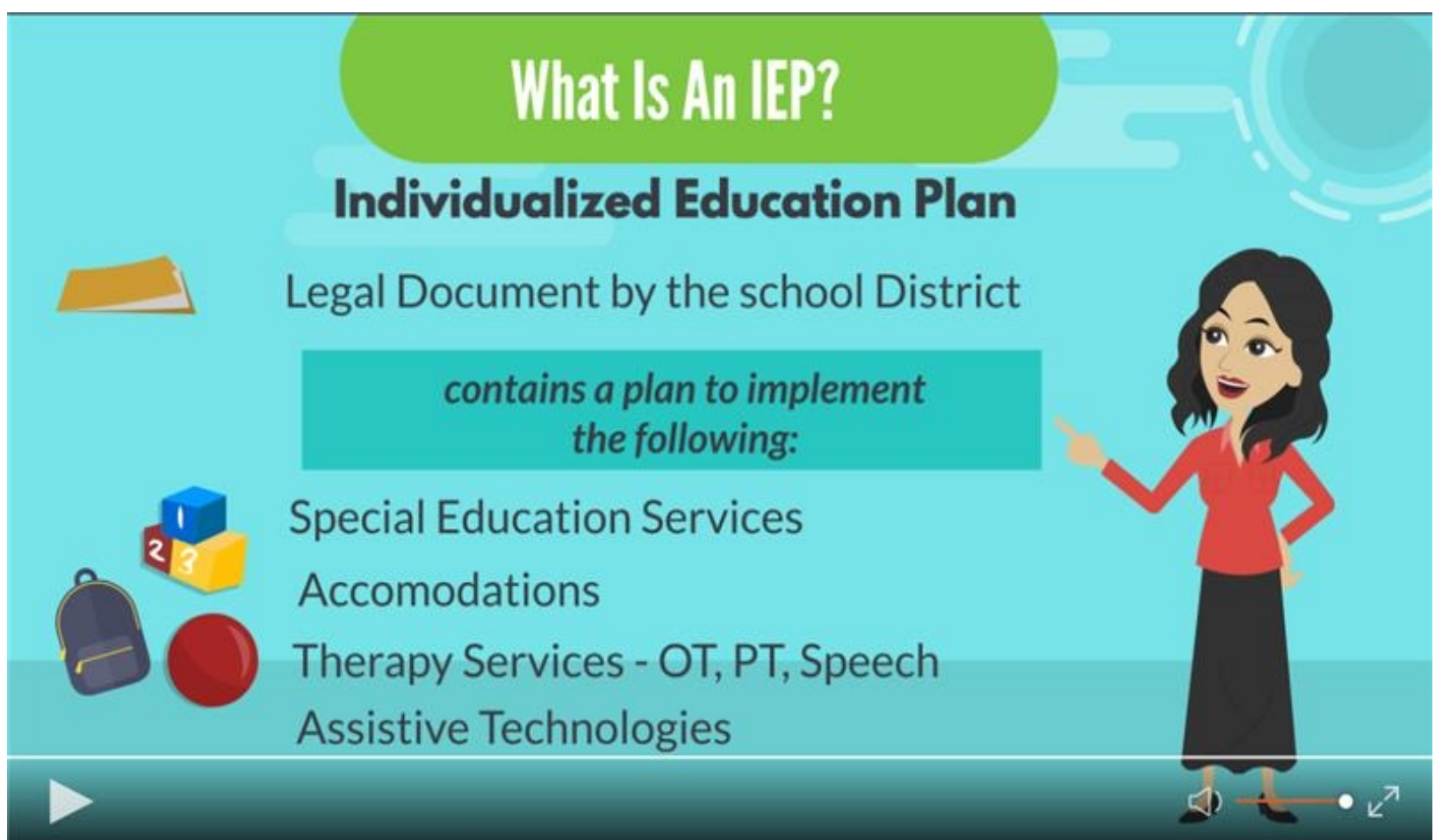
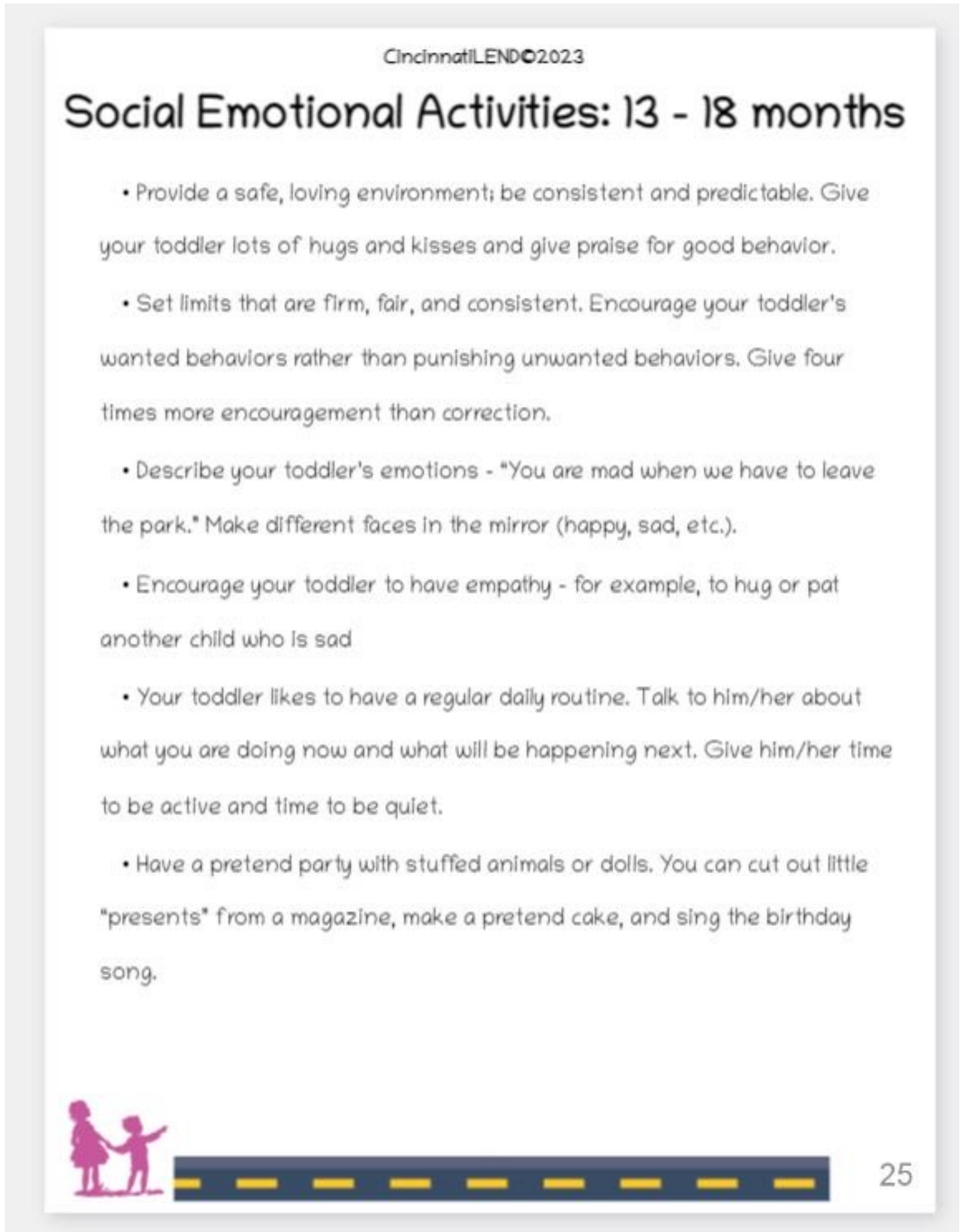
- Provide caregivers with activities to practice with their children for skill development
- Each domain has its own handout and animated video
  - Domains include: speech/language, fine motor, gross motor, problem solving, social-emotional, and tantrums
- Materials are based on developmental milestones for children ages 0-5 years

### EVALUATION HANDOUTS AND VIDEOS

- Describe the role of different health care providers in supporting the child and family
- Explain the process and what to expect once a child is referred for an evaluation to:
  - psychology
  - physical therapy
  - speech language therapy
  - occupational therapy

### OTHER HANDOUTS AND VIDEOS

- Provide information on advocacy skills and IEPs
- Offer strategies to improve behavior and increase motivation to practice skill development
- Increase families' awareness of the role of providers in assisting families with navigating health care and school systems
- Define common terms



## Discussion

- Toolkit has been well received by parents and policy partners
- We encountered time constraints for regular meetings with the policy partners and parents to obtain feedback for updated handouts and videos
- We encountered limited resources for financing translation services for the handouts and videos

## Next Steps

- With financial support from Head Start, the toolkit will be translated to Spanish
- Additional handouts on toilet training and pre-literacy skills will be incorporated into the existing toolkit
- Team will meet biannually with the Parent Policy Council to assess the need for updates and additions
- To encourage continued parental involvement, the Team will work with Head Start to build the toolkit into their “Ready Rosie” system
- Expand reach to other agencies and parent councils

## Acknowledgements

- LEND
- Head Start Policy Partners and Parent Advisory Boards
- Educational Service Center/Hamilton County Head Start teachers and staff
- Community Action Agency/Cincinnati Head Start teachers and staff
- This project is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau Grant T73MC00032

*References available upon request*