

## Even Start Definitions Page

### G. Definitions

1. **Partnership** means the required “eligible entity” between a local education agency (LEA) and a nonprofit community-based organization, a public agency other than an LEA, an institution of higher education, or a public or private nonprofit organization other than an LEA of demonstrated quality. Partners agree to pool resources; jointly plan, implement, and evaluate new services and procedures; and delegate individual responsibility for the outcomes of their joint efforts. (Each partner’s responsibilities should be delineated in the grant application.)
2. **Collaboration** means unity of effort established to address common goals and issues which lie beyond an agency’s exclusive purview, but is of concern to all agencies involved. Collaborating agencies may agree to pool resources; jointly plan, implement, and evaluate new services and procedures; and delegate individual responsibility for the outcomes of their joint efforts.
3. **Developmentally appropriate** shall mean that the learning environment and teaching strategies are based on widely accepted theories and research about the growth and development of young children. Programs for adults take into account the learning styles of adults.
4. **Family literacy** is services provided to participants on a voluntary basis that are of sufficient intensity in terms of hours, and of sufficient duration, to make sustainable changes in the family and that integrate all of the following:
  - Interactive literacy activities between parents and their children.
  - Training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children.
  - Parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency.
  - An age appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.
5. **In-kind contributions** shall mean those local resources contributed to the operation of the project by the applicant, partner or a collaborating agency(ies). In-kind contributions may support any aspect of the project and generally include such resources as labor, materials, volunteer time, rent, etc. (Even Start funds may **not** be used for the indirect costs of a local Even Start Family Literacy Project.) In-kind contributions may come from any local, state, or federal source, including any federal funds under Title I other than Even Start funds; however, if Title I, Part A (LEA Grant program) funds are used as part of the local cost share, those funds may only be used for Even Start children eligible for Part A services.
6. **Scientifically-based reading research** shall mean the application of rigorous, systematic, and objective procedures to obtain valid knowledge relevant to reading development, reading instruction, and reading difficulties. To meet the statutory definition, the research must:
  - Employ systematic, empirical methods that draw on observation or experiment;
  - Involve rigorous data analyses that are adequate to test the stated hypotheses and justify the general conclusions drawn;
  - Rely on measurements or observational methods that provide valid data across evaluators and observers and across multiple measurements and observations; and
  - Have been accepted by a peer-reviewed journal or approved by a panel of independent experts through a comparably rigorous, objective, and scientific review.