The Loss of a Child or Out of Home Placement of a Child
Policy/Procedure

Staff and providers are responsive and supportive of a family experiencing a loss or an out of home placement of a child. Loss is defined as termination of pregnancy, death of a child, or a failed adoption. Out-of-home placement is defined as a child being placed in kin care, foster care, or adoption. This does include a child moving in and out of foster care.

Policy/Procedure:
For families and/or caregivers in the case of the loss of a child
• The Early Head Start/Head Start staff or provider will contact the family as soon as possible and attempt to arrange a home visit in the case of the loss of a child.
• Staff/provider will take the lead from the family and/or guardian and be responsive and supportive of their needs.
• Staff/provider will share pertinent information and make referrals to community resources within in the area.
• Staff/provider will follow up periodically on referrals made.
• When needed, a consent form will be completed by the parent(s) or community provider to share pertinent information regarding services or programming.
• The number and frequency of visits will be determined by the family and/or guardian and staff person.
• Staff will work with the family to set goals, timeline and plans for transition.
• Families will be visited a maximum of three months. Visits will lessen in the length and duration overtime. These visits will be referred transition visits for the family and the staff/provider.

Policy/Procedure:
That will be used with a child in the case of out–of- home placement:
• Staff /provider will contact the family and/or guardian promptly to verify child has been placed out of the home.
• Staff will offer to continue programming in the out of home placement site upon family and/or guardian’s request/schedule.
• All attempts will be made by staff to continue visiting with the child weekly as previously scheduled
• Staff will be flexible and will re-arrange times and site of visits if requested by the family and/or guardian.
• Weekly visits will be strongly encouraged in order to maintain the trusting, caring and consistency between the child and the EHS home visitor.
• Visits will continue until the child reaches the age of three or the family and /or guardian no longer wish to continue home visits.

This policy complies with Head Start Performance Standard 45CFR Section 1304.24 (a)(l)(vi)

Approved by Policy Council on 3-22-2005
Updated on 3-16-05

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