**Adult-Child Interaction Observation For Oregon Spark**

**Initial Draft Proposal**

**Draft 9/14/17**

One goal of the Spark revision process is to ensure that Spark is measuring what research has shown matters for children. Research suggests that adult-child interactions are measurable indicators that lead to child outcomes. The following is a proposal of how Spark will measure and support quality interactions in child care programs.

**Observation Tools**

* Infant, Toddler and/or Pre-K Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)
* School-Age Program Quality Assessment (PQA)

**Observation Scores**

* Used in two Standards at the 4-Star level: Supporting Learning Through Interactions and Supporting Social and Emotional Development
* Minimum observation threshold scores will be established
* After reaching minimum threshold, points awarded based on ranges of observation scores
* Thresholds set using information from the Validation Study, Head Start National scores, QRIS Compendium information from other states, the Weikart Center and Teachstone

**Observers**

* All observers will be trained to reliability on tools and maintain ongoing reliability requirements
* Observers will reflect the diversity of children served by the system (as a correlated percentage); diversity includes race, ethnicity, language and culture
* Observers will have additional pre-service and ongoing training requirements including; anti-bias, observation protocols, etc.

**For Programs with Multiple Classrooms and/or Multiple Age Groups**

* Observations will be done on 1/3 of the classrooms for each age group (same as current procedure).
* Mixed age groups will have observers trained in multiple tools. Observation cycles will be conducted for each age group depending on the number of children in each age group (same as current procedure).

**Professional Development, CQI and Support**

* Quality Improvement Specialists will be trained in coaching techniques to support child care programs in improving their adult-child interactions. This will begin prior to the rollout of Spark.
* In addition to the scores, each class/program observed will receive an “Observation Report” which shares both “Strengths” and “Recommendations.”
* Creation of system wide supports for programs, technical assistance providers, and partners to understand the tools and best practices in adult-child interactions
* Quality Improvement Specialists can support programs to improve using the scores and observation reports

**System Alignment and Partnership**

* Observations and use of tools will be coordinated and aligned across systems and initiatives (e.g. Hubs, Ounce grant, Preschool Promise, Head Start, Early Head Start and EHS Child Care Partnerships)
* The Professional Development (PD) system’s intersections with adult-child interaction and observations will be coordinated and aligned regarding supports to programs, quality improvement specialists, coaching and quality improvement resources, and approaches to PD.