



**Office of Early
Childhood and Out-
of-School Learning**

Paths to QUALITY™ Success Tool: Strategic Planning

Strategic planning is important for all early childhood programs and can make a difference in program quality. Planning helps a program envision goals and action steps for both the immediate future and long-term.

Background

This resource shares the benefits of strategic planning, how to get started planning and includes an example form to use to create your own strategic plan. Included are:

- Three minute video with slide-show
- Example of a strategic plan form

Taking action

- Watch the video

Next steps

- Think about your own program and current practices. What are some quality program improvements you would like to see both short-term and long-term?
- Assess your program using the Indiana Self-Assessment Tool.
- Consider getting feedback from staff and parents on improvements they would like to see in the program.
- Create your strategic plan utilizing the information gathered. Remember to reflect on it often when making program decisions and update it annually.

Additional resources

- [SPARK Technical Assistance: What is a Strategic Plan?](#)
- [SPARK Technical Assistance: What is a Strategic Plan? - Spanish Video](#)
- Example of strategic planning form

How to get more help

Contact the SPARK Learning Lab Help Desk for support at 1-800-299-1627. We are available Monday – Friday 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM and Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM EST.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Name of program _____ Date _____

Mission Statement _____

Goal: Short-term or Long-term?	Essential tasks	Measurable Outcomes	Who is responsible?	Resources needed	Target Dates