

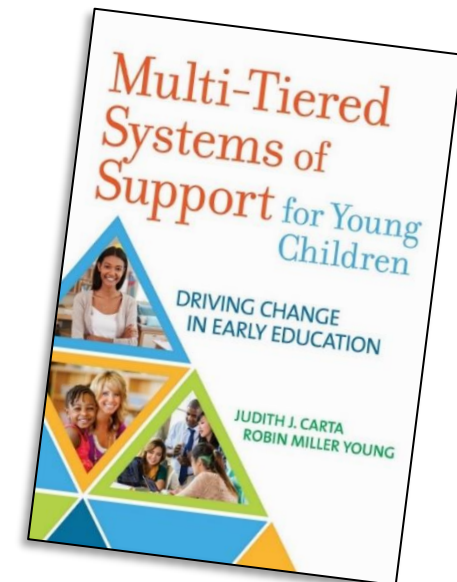
Moving an Early Education Program into an MTSS Framework

Part 3: Tier 1--Building the Foundation

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**Workshop
presented at the
NeMTSS Summit
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Increased individualization,
intensity, and frequency of
instruction

Tier 3:

Highly individualized
outcomes and
teaching/caregiving
strategies

Tier 2:

Targeted outcomes
and
teaching/caregiving
strategies

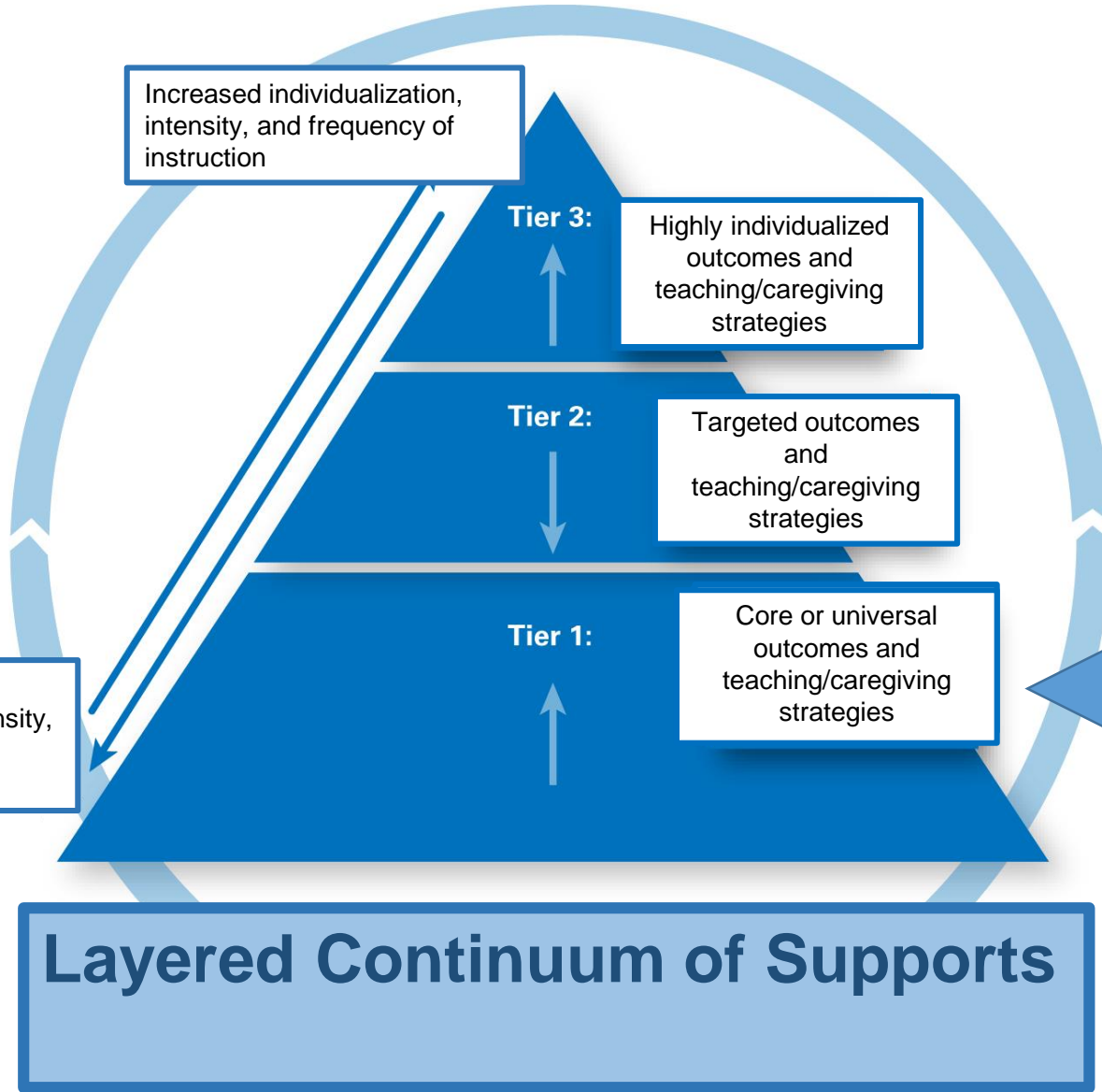
Tier 1:

Core or universal
outcomes and
teaching/caregiving
strategies

Decreased
individualization, intensity,
and frequency of
instruction

Tier 1 is the
core or
universal level.

Layered Continuum of Supports



Think about the curriculum that forms the basis of TIER 1 in your program.

- How was the curriculum selected? What factors were considered?
- Did you and your instructional team have input on the selection of the curriculum?

In this part of the workshop, we'll describe some important considerations for selecting and reviewing Tier 1 so it will be as effective as possible in promoting children's outcomes.

There's Nothing Like Home-Made Spaghetti Sauce!



**Here's Mama Carta's reaction after
tasting store-bought spaghetti sauce!**



IMPLEMENTING A STRONG TIER 1 IS LIKE MAKING HOME-MADE SPAGHETTI SAUCE



TIPS ON MAKING GOOD SPAGHETTI SAUCE

1. Start out with a great recipe.
2. Use the best ingredients.
3. Don't skimp on ingredients.
4. Make sure you taste regularly and adjust seasonings.

Formula for a Tier 1 that Promotes Success

1. Start out with a good recipe: a strong curriculum

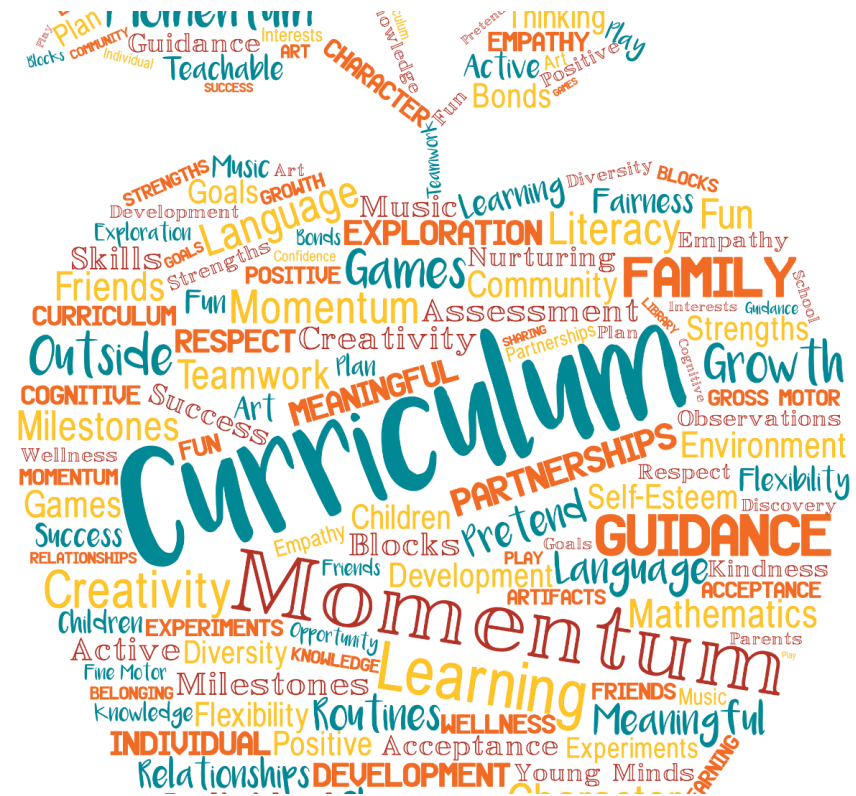


By choosing the right curriculum for your program, you build the **strongest foundation** possible and may reduce the number of children who need Tier 2 and Tier 3 support.



Formula for a Tier 1 that Promotes Success

1. Start with a great recipe for learning: a strong curriculum.



#1: Start out with a good recipe: Curriculum



The foundation of Tier 1 should be a research-based curriculum implemented with fidelity.

Think about curriculum that guides language/literacy in your program.

- Did you and/or your instructional team have input on the selection of the curriculum?
- What were the factors that guided the selection of the curriculum?

A source for reviewing curriculum in early education: Preschool Curriculum Consumer Report

Rates several early education curricula across numerous indicators



PRESCHOOL
CURRICULUM
CONSUMER REPORT



THE NATIONAL CENTER ON
Quality Teaching
and Learning



The Preschool Curriculum Consumer Report was developed before the 2015 release of the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. As a result, you will find references in this report to items associated with its predecessor, the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, published in 2010. Please know that the domains of the Head Start Child Development

- Available from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/curriculum-consumer-report.pdf> (Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center)



Guiding Questions in Selecting Tier 1 in Early Literacy and Language

- Does it cover the important domains and domain elements (skills known to predict later school success)?
 - ✓ Oral language
 - ✓ Comprehension
 - ✓ Phonemic Awareness
 - ✓ Alphabet Knowledge
- Is there depth of coverage (organized scope and sequence?)
- Is it evidence-based? Does it improve child outcomes?

Guiding Questions (continued)



- Are there supports for individualizing instruction? (supports and adaptations)
- Is it culturally and linguistically responsive?
- Does it include an ongoing assessment component?
- Does it include PD support (for initial and ongoing training? Evidence for effectiveness?)
- Are there family involvement materials?

Guiding Questions (continued)

- Are there clearly defined learning goals?
- Are there well-designed engaging activities?
- Does it follow a model of responsive teaching?





Worth
Noting

Almost all curricula have some limitations.

- Seldom does one curriculum cover all the bases
 - ❖ Broad multi-domain curricula often need to be supplemented with a domain specific program for promoting early literacy/language or social-emotional development
 - ❖ Goal should be that children get strong curricular content to meet goals across all domain
- We have few examples of MTSS being delivered across domains.
 - ❖ Programs typically implement tiered models in social-emotional or literacy but not both. Few MTSS approaches have addressed math or science.

Formula for a Tier 1 that Promotes Success

1. Start out with a good recipe.
2. Use the best ingredients in the recipe.

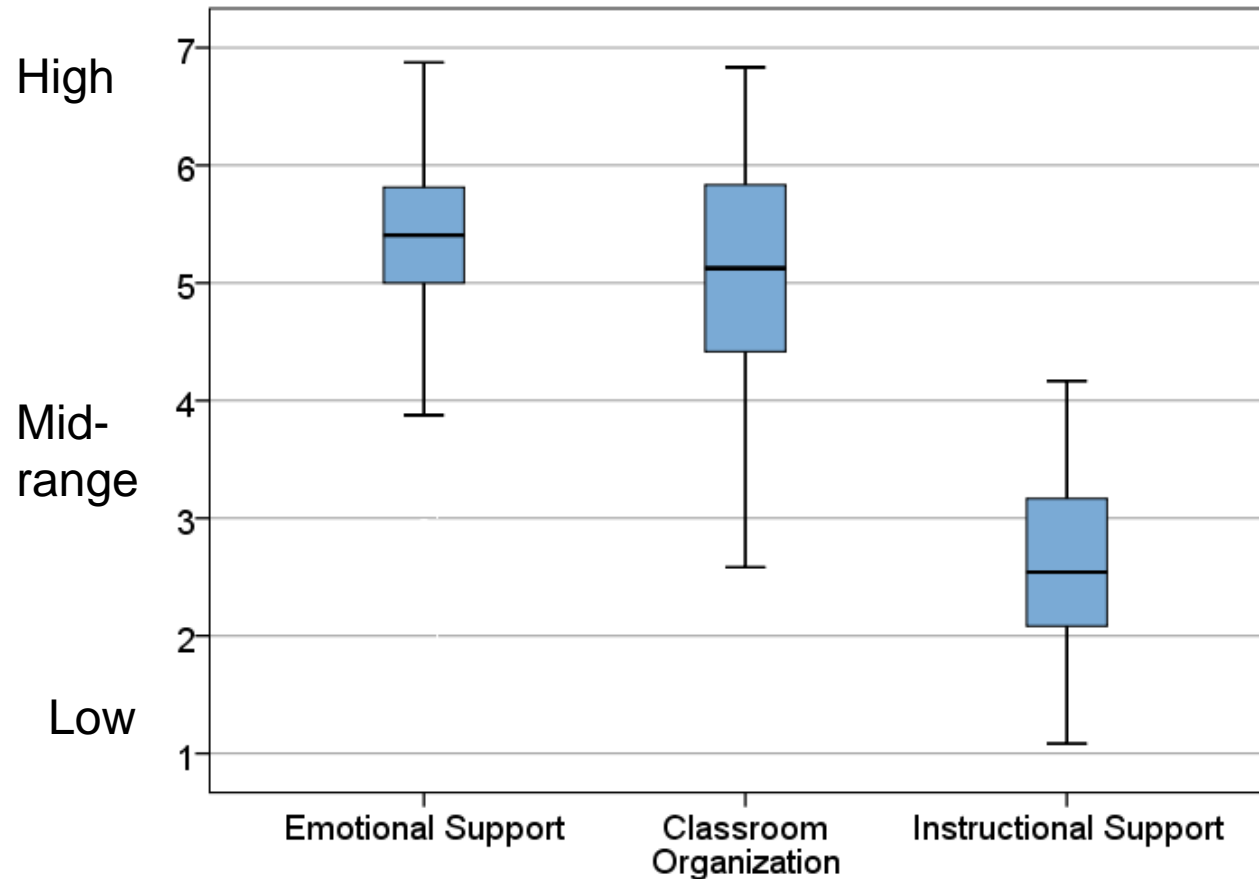
#2: Use The Best Ingredients: Instructional Strategies

Evidence-Based Instructional
Strategies
(Intentional Teaching)
should set the stage
for

**FREQUENT OPPORTUNITIES TO
RESPOND**
and
**HIGH LEVELS OF ACTIVE
ENGAGEMENT**



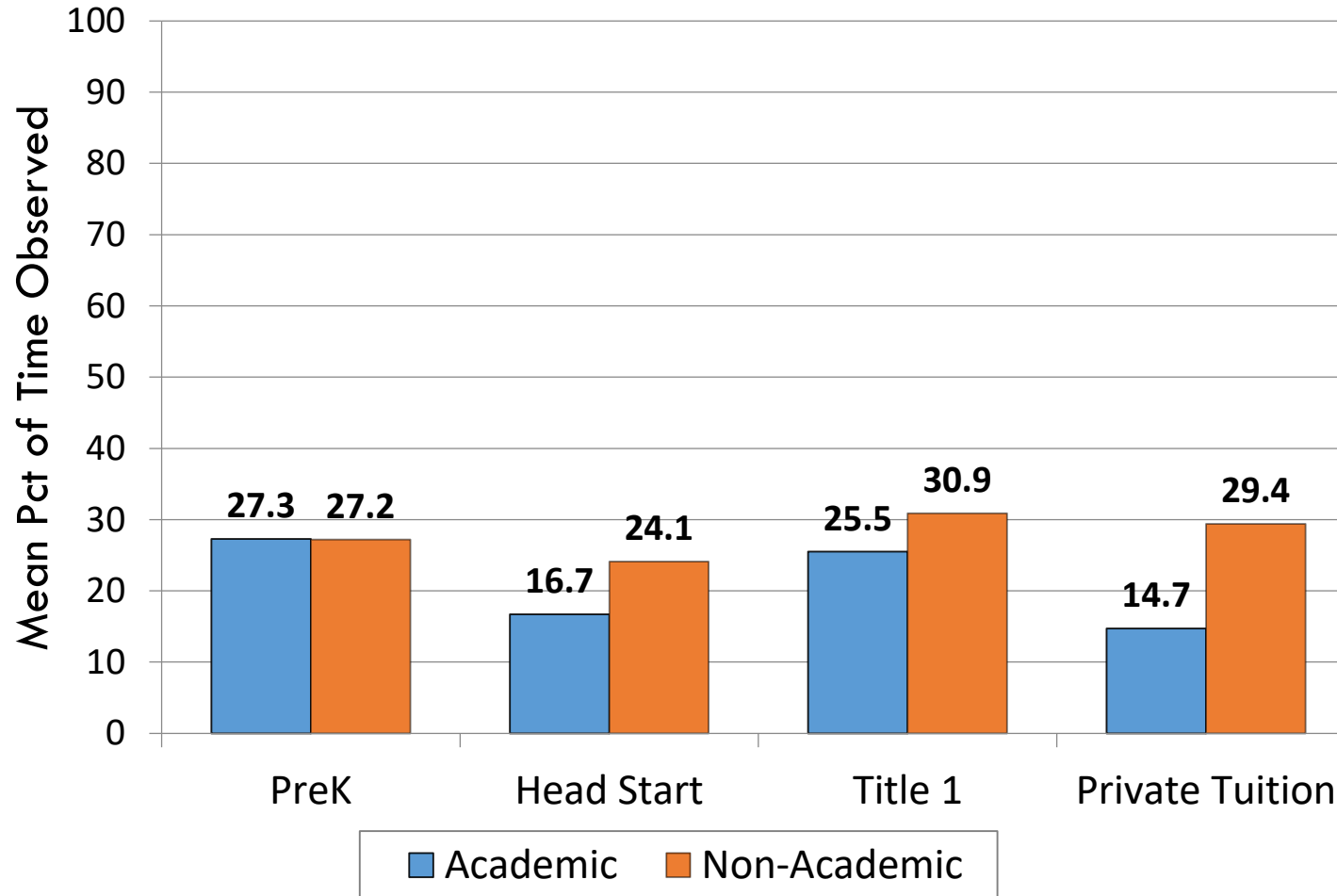
Quality of instructional support on CLASS is often much lower than emotional support or classroom organization.



Average CLASS Scores in Preschool Programs in CRTIEC Study of 67 Classrooms

Carta et al., 2014

Percent of classroom day that children were actively engaged in 4 Types of Programs



Average % of Day Spent Engaged (either in academic or non-academic activities) in CRTIEC Study of 67 Classrooms

Examples of evidence-based instructional strategies

- To teach new skills: I do, We do, You do
- Embedded instruction: including learning opportunities across all activities (e.g., during transitions, snack time)
- Choral responding: Promoting active engagement in groups by teaching children how to respond as a group with words, gestures (minimize waiting to respond)
- Arranging classroom environments that promote active engagement (children can engage toys/materials independently)



Formula for a Tier 1 that Promotes Success

1. Start out with a good recipe.
2. Use the right ingredients in the recipe.
3. Don't skimp on the most important ingredients.

#3: Use the Right Amount of Those Good Ingredients

Make sure to plan a schedule that allows children to get the right amount or “dose” of instruction.



PREPARE FOR THOSE UNEXPECTED OCCURRENCES!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Arrival – Table Time	Arrival – Table Time	Arrival – Table Time	Arrival – Table Time	Arrival – Table Time
Circle/Story CHILD MELTDOWN !!!	Circle/Story Time	Circle/Story Time	Circle/Story Time	Circle/Story Time
Snack/Special	Snack/Specials	Snack/Specials	Snack/Specials	Snack/Specials
Recess	Deck the Halls & Decorate the Room	Recess	Recess	Recess
Centers		Centers	Centers	Centers
Closing Circle	Closing Circle	Closing Circle	Closing Circle	Closing Circle



IEP's



**HOLIDAY
ART
ACTIVITY**



Screenings

**Holiday
Party**



#4: Taste and Adjust Seasonings

Make sure you monitor progress and make instructional adjustments when needed.



Formula for a Tier 1 that Promotes Success

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4. Make sure you taste regularly and add more seasoning as needed.

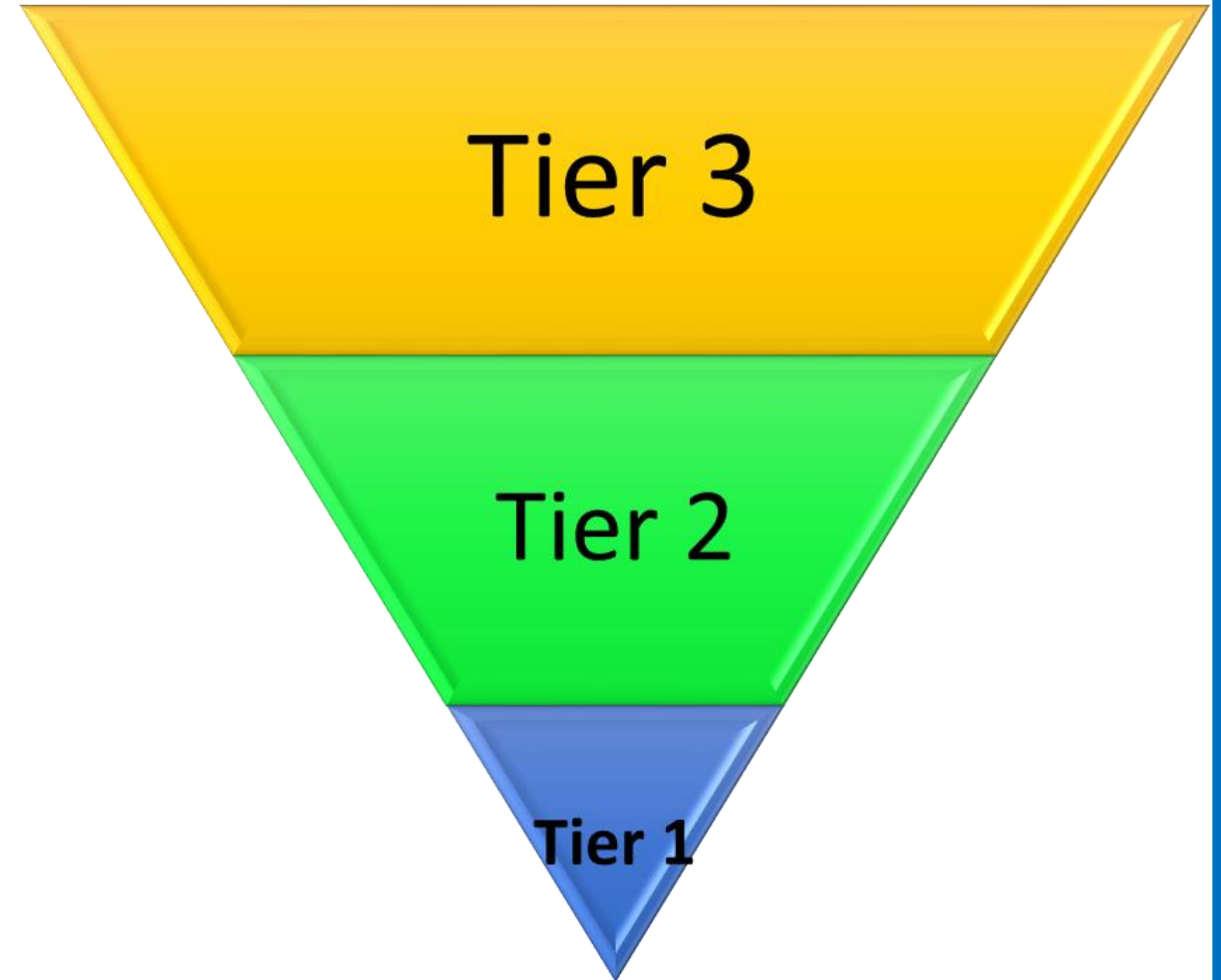
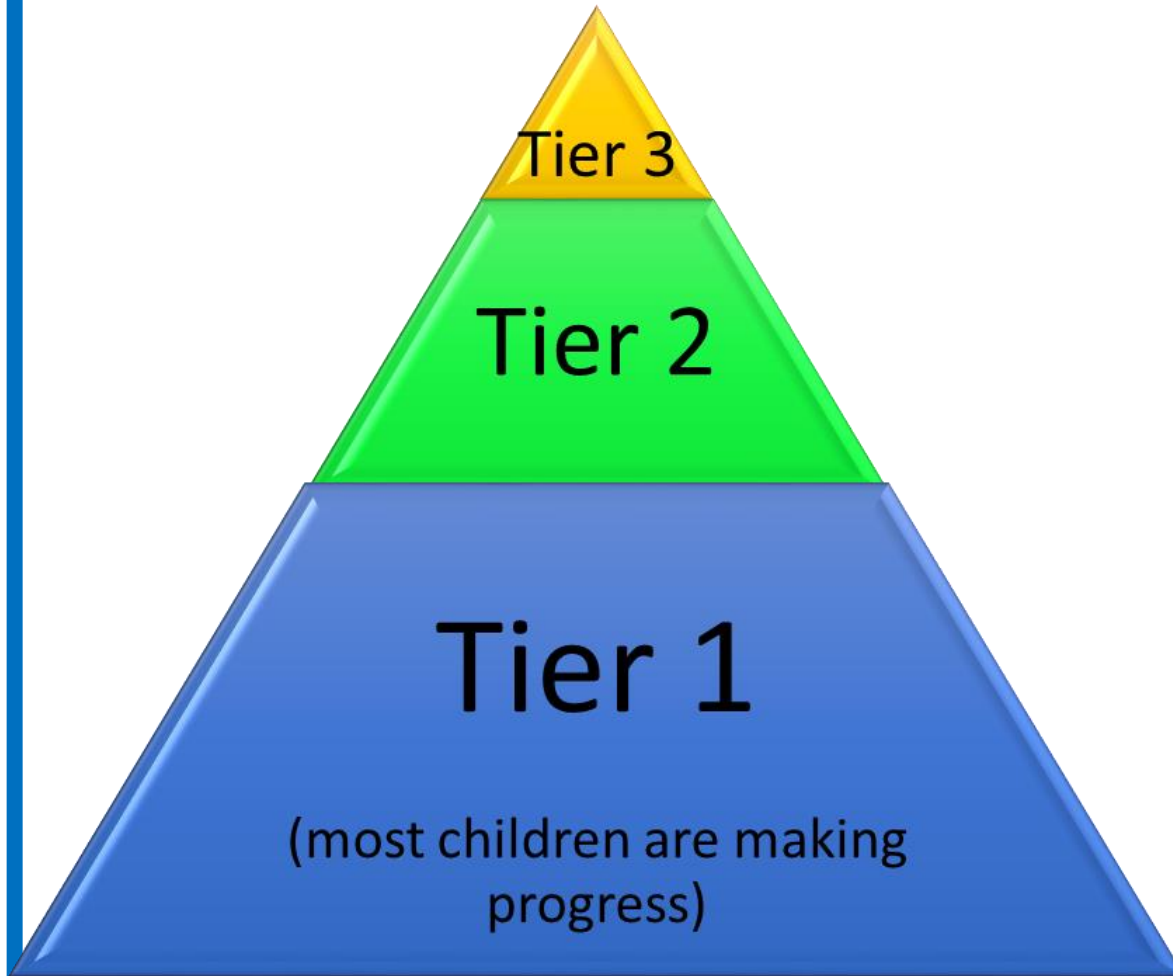
Universal Screening

- **PURPOSE:** determines how well core curriculum is working for the majority of students
- **TOOLS:** very brief assessments on key elements of the curriculum; these are NOT the same as developmental screening tools
- **FOCUS:** all students
- **TIMEFRAME:** students are usually assessed three times a year

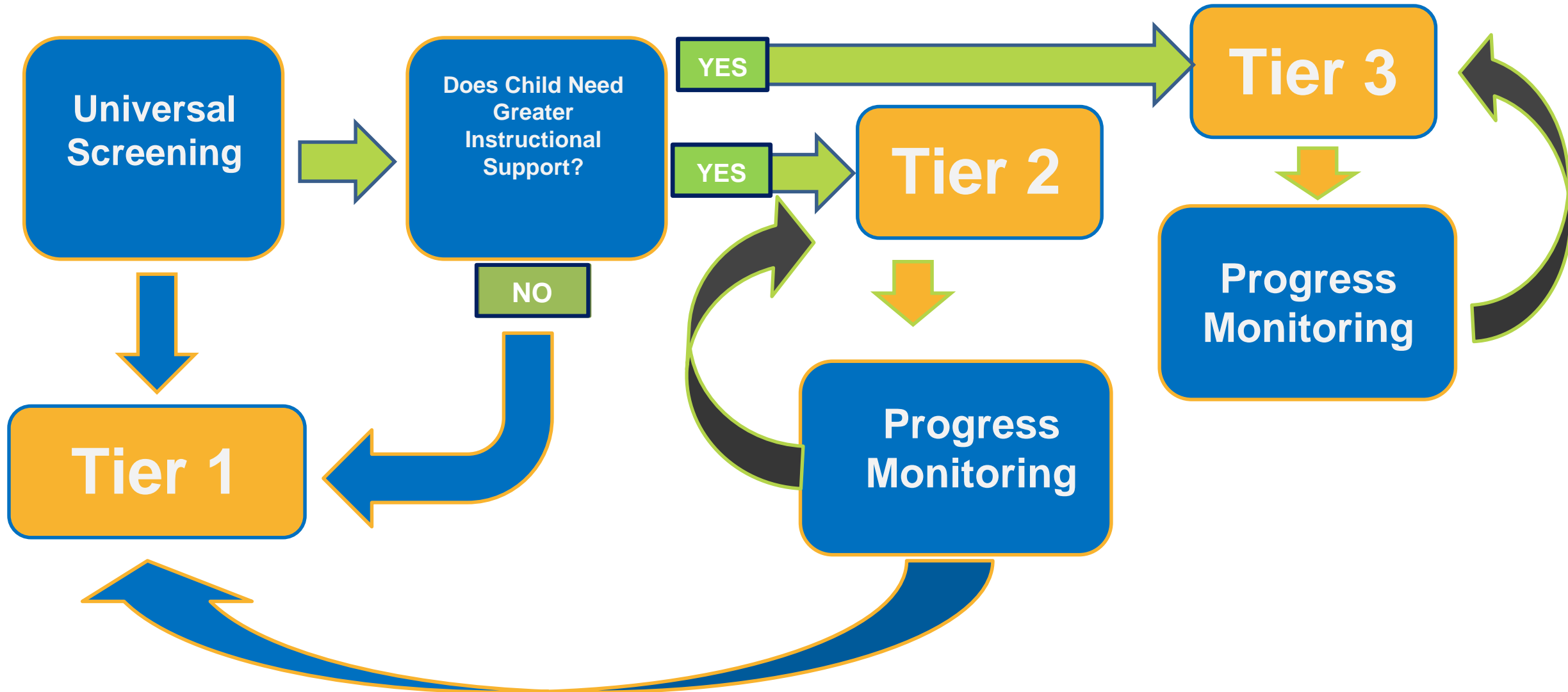


Two Different Tiered Models

(How Would MTSS look different in these two models?)



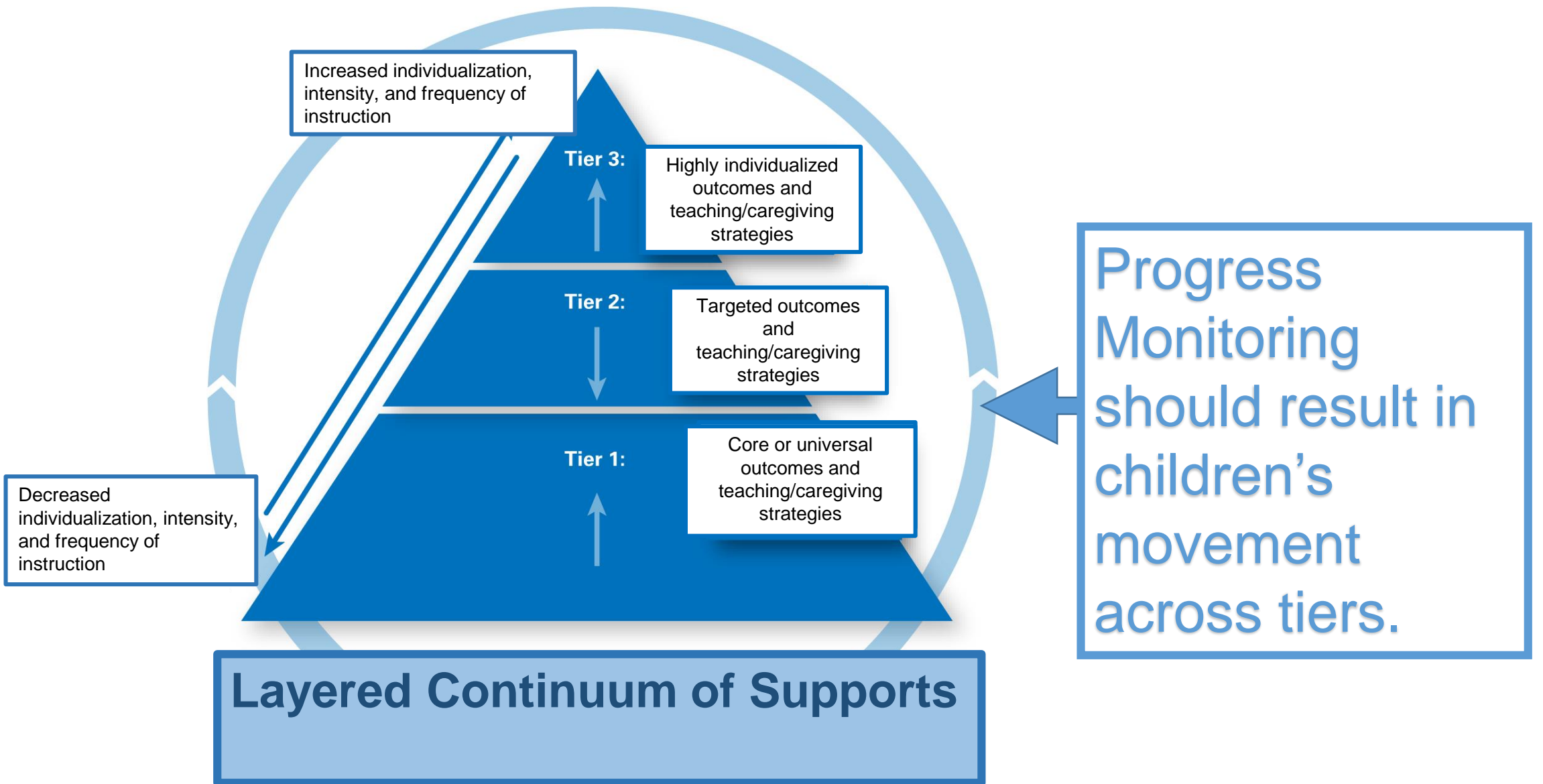
Universal Screening and Progress Monitoring



Progress Monitoring

- **PURPOSE:** monitor students' response to instruction to find students who are not demonstrating adequate progress
- **TOOLS:** brief assessments that are valid, reliable, and evidence based
- **TIMEFRAME:** students are assessed at regular intervals (e.g., weekly, biweekly, or monthly)





Formula for Tier 1 in Early Childhood that Promotes Success

- Start out with a good recipe: curriculum.
- Use research-based curricula with fidelity
- Use the right ingredients in the recipe.
- Use effective instructional practices and make sure they are implemented with fidelity.



Formula for Tier 1 in Early Childhood that Promotes Success

- Don't skimp on the most important ingredients.
- Make sure obstacles don't interfere with children's opportunities for instruction.
- Make sure you taste regularly and add more seasoning as needed.
- Monitor progress—add more instructional supports when necessary.