

## **Updated Guidance on In-Person and Virtual Visits + Developing a Hybrid Plan**

ParentChild+ places immense importance on the safety and health of families, home-based child care providers, and site staff. We also value the opinions of families and caregivers when it comes to deciding how they want to participate in the program, provided these decisions do not conflict with local rules and regulations. It's important to understand that staff, families, and providers may feel nervous regarding in-person interactions or meetings for several reasons. Addressing these concerns is key to assessing comfort levels and planning your site's future steps.

### **In-Person and Virtual Visiting:**

Please use this guidance to determine the implementation of the ParentChild+ program at your site.

- If families prefer virtual visits, your site can accommodate this, especially for those who are reluctant or unable to receive an Early Learning Specialist (ELS) in their homes. We encourage finding alternative visit locations or using virtual visits.
- No family or child care provider shall be denied services based on their preferred mode of visitation.
- Try to match staff with families who share the same preference for visit modes.
- For those visiting home-based child care providers, there are three questions to consider: Are the families of the children, the provider, and the ELS all okay with in-person visits?

It is permissible to replace or substitute virtual visits for in-home visits under certain situations, including:

- If a scheduled visit is missed;
- If a visit needs to be rescheduled;
- If poor weather condition makes it hard to travel for an in-person visit;
- If someone is sick, to avoid spreading illness;
- If a family is temporarily relocated;
- If there's a sudden change in scheduling;
- If a family, child care provider, or ELS is worried about exposure to possible immigration agents or immigration issues; and,
- You can also use virtual visits with recordings for assessments (like PICCOLO or practice-based coaching).

Given the current social and political climate, many organizations may implement a hybrid model to meet the needs of families, providers, and staff. This approach can help ease worries, reduce health risks, simplify scheduling, and reduce travel expenses.

ParentChild+ understands that local implementation agencies, school district partners, and funding sources have diverse viewpoints regarding in-person and virtual home visits. If you need help navigating these issues within your community, please contact your State Director.

### Developing a Hybrid Model Plan:

A hybrid model refers to a structured approach to visits, where a set number of visits are conducted in-person and a set number are conducted virtually. It does not mean changing the types of visits each week or for each family. Here are some examples of a hybrid model:

- Families or providers receive one in-person visit and one virtual visit each week.
- Families or providers alternate between in-person and virtual visits each week.
- Families or providers have in-person visits for a specific time, followed by a period of virtual visits (like 23 weeks of in-person visits and 23 weeks of virtual visits).

If your site wishes to propose a hybrid plan, please get in touch with both your State Director and the Research and Evaluation Team contact, You Zhou ([yzhou@parentchildplus.org](mailto:yzhou@parentchildplus.org)), to ensure it follows ParentChild+ National Center guidance.

### Dosage Expectations:

All participants enrolled in the ParentChild+ program will receive live, synchronous visits throughout the program, adhering to the following dosage for each model:

- Family Model: 92 visits
- Home-Based Child Care Model: 48 visits

Please keep in mind that phone calls and shared videos do not count as visits. However, they are valuable supplements to live visits.