ParentChild+ Enrollment Age Guidance

Proposed Guidance for Network Review and Feedback

ParentChild+ is proposing clearer age-at-enrollment pathways to help sites make consistent decisions about eligibility, dosage, and developmentally appropriate practice. These pathways do not change the Family Model.

Please review the proposed pathways in light of your site's enrollment practices, funding contracts, and capacity. We welcome feedback on potential implementation challenges, particularly where local funding requirements may affect which pathways a site can offer.

Please submit feedback, questions, or comments by December 3, 2026:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/age_public_comment

ParentChild+ Guidance on Age at Enrollment

Enrollment pathway		A: Younger Toddler Pathway	B: Standard Pathway	C: Limited Eligibility Pathway	
Age of child	Under 16 months	16-23 months	24-35 months	36-42 months	Older than 42 months
Program planning and enrollment	Not eligible	Good option for calendar year programs serving families across two calendar years	Good option for rolling admissions	Limited enrollment option for children ages 36-42 months, considering family needs, time before school entry, and funding requirements.	Not eligible
Rationale	Too young for PC+ enrollment	Early full dosage pathway	Core research aligned pathway	Later enrollment may limit the time available to complete the full 92 visits; a 46-visit pathway provides a shortened option.	Too old for PC+ enrollment
Duration of program	Waitlist	92 visits	92 visits	46 visits (shortened dosage)	Referral
VISM		VISM 1-46	VISM 11-56	VISM 33-56	
Guide Sheet		Guide sheets should reflect age-appropriate developmental expectations for each enrollment pathway.			
ELS Professional Development		Training and coaching for ELSs on early communication, caregiver responsiveness, and developmentally appropriate play	Training and coaching for ELSs on language expansion, open-ended prompts, and more complex play	Training and coaching for ELSs on age-appropriate facilitation, caregiver support, and school transitions	
ELS Practice		Support caregivers in responding to gestures, sounds, early words, and child-led play	Support caregivers in expanding language, choices, problem-solving, and pretend play	Support caregivers in extending conversations, encouraging independence and self-regulation, and incorporating learning into daily routines	

What are the proposed enrollment age ranges and pathways?

Children ages 24-35 months most closely align with the Family Model's intended design and research base. Children may enroll earlier through the Younger Toddler Pathway beginning at 16 months, provided the site can deliver the full dosage appropriately. Enrollment at 36-42 months falls under the Limited Eligibility Pathway, with a reduced dosage of 46 visits. Children 43 months and older are not eligible for enrollment.

Does this guidance change the Family Model?

No. All pathways maintain the Family Model's core elements, including relationship-based home visits, books and toys as learning tools, caregiver-child interaction, and ELS facilitation.

What may differ by pathway is dosage, VISM sequencing, guide sheets, caregiver prompts, and ELS professional development.

What if a child is outside the eligible enrollment age range?

Sites may add the family with a child younger than 16 months to a waitlist, stay in contact, offer referrals or resources, and consider enrollment once the child reaches the eligible age range.

Children older than 42 months and older are not eligible for ParentChild+ enrollment. Sites should consider whether another early childhood, preschool, family engagement, or community-based service is a better fit.

Why are there separate Younger Toddler and Standard Pathways if both provide 92 visits?

Both pathways provide the full 92 visits, but children enrolling at 16–23 months may have different developmental needs than those entering 24-35 months.

For younger toddlers, ELSs may need to adapt their practice by using simpler language, shorter activities, repetition, and more opportunities for caregivers to respond to children's gestures, sounds, and early communication. For example, ELSs might coach caregivers to notice and respond to pointing, imitate sounds, name familiar objects, and follow the child's lead during play.

As children develop, ELSs can support caregivers in expanding language, asking questions, encouraging pretend play, and building early problem-solving skills.

When is the Limited Eligibility Pathway appropriate?

Children enrolling at 36-42 months may have less time to complete the full 92 visits before entering preschool or another early learning setting. The Limited Eligibility Pathway allows a shortened 46-visit program when appropriate, considering family needs, school transitions, and funding requirements.

This pathway is not meant to replace the full-dosage model. It creates a clearer pathway for older toddlers when full dosage may not be feasible or appropriate.

How do VISM and Guide Sheets differ by pathway?

Sites should use the VISM sequence that corresponds to the child's enrollment pathway to support developmentally appropriate learning.

Pathway	VISM Range
A: Younger Toddler Pathway	1–46
B: Standard Pathway	11–56
C: Limited Eligibility Pathway	33–56

Sites do not need separate guide sheets for each pathway. Using the updated **guide sheet templates,** guide sheets should identify what children are learning, how expectations differ by developmental stage, and how caregivers can support learning during visits and daily routines.

For the Limited Eligibility Pathway, guide sheets should also address developmentally appropriate learning and preparation for preschool or kindergarten.

How should sites support developmentally appropriate ELS practice?

Core ELS facilitation practices remain consistent across pathways, but Coordinators may need to provide additional training, coaching, or supervision to support developmentally appropriate practice.

For younger toddlers, this may include supporting caregiver responsiveness, early communication, and child-led play.

For older toddlers, particularly those in the Limited Eligibility Pathway, coaching may focus on adapting activities and prompts to support language development, independence, self-regulation, and preparation for school transitions. Coordinators should ensure ELSs are prepared to adapt home visits for older toddlers while maintaining caregiver-child interaction as the focus and delivering the required 46 visits.

How should sites determine the appropriate enrollment pathway?

The child's age at enrollment determines the pathway. Sites should also consider family needs, enrollment structure, and local context when planning implementation, including access to preschool and other early learning opportunities.

Sites must continue to meet the eligibility and service requirements of their funding contracts. If these differ from the proposed guidance, sites should consult with ParentChild+ before making enrollment decisions.

Following the review period, ParentChild+ will provide a decision tree in DAISY to support consistent enrollment decisions.

Is this guidance final?

No. This guidance is open for network feedback through December 3, 2026. Please share any questions, concerns, or implementation considerations using the survey below. **https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/age_public_comment**