ECE Policy for Tomorrow: Thinking Fresh-Acting Smart

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Presentation Overview

Part I: Thinking Fresh

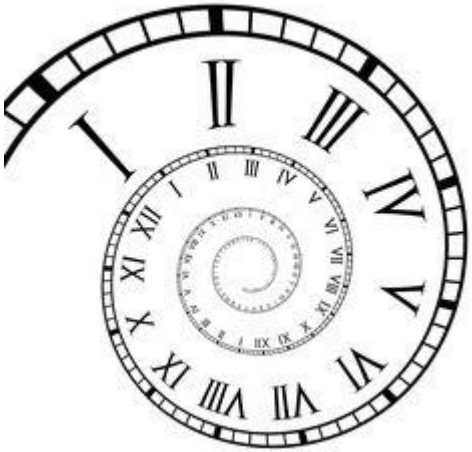
Part II: Acting Smart

Part III: Creating Systems

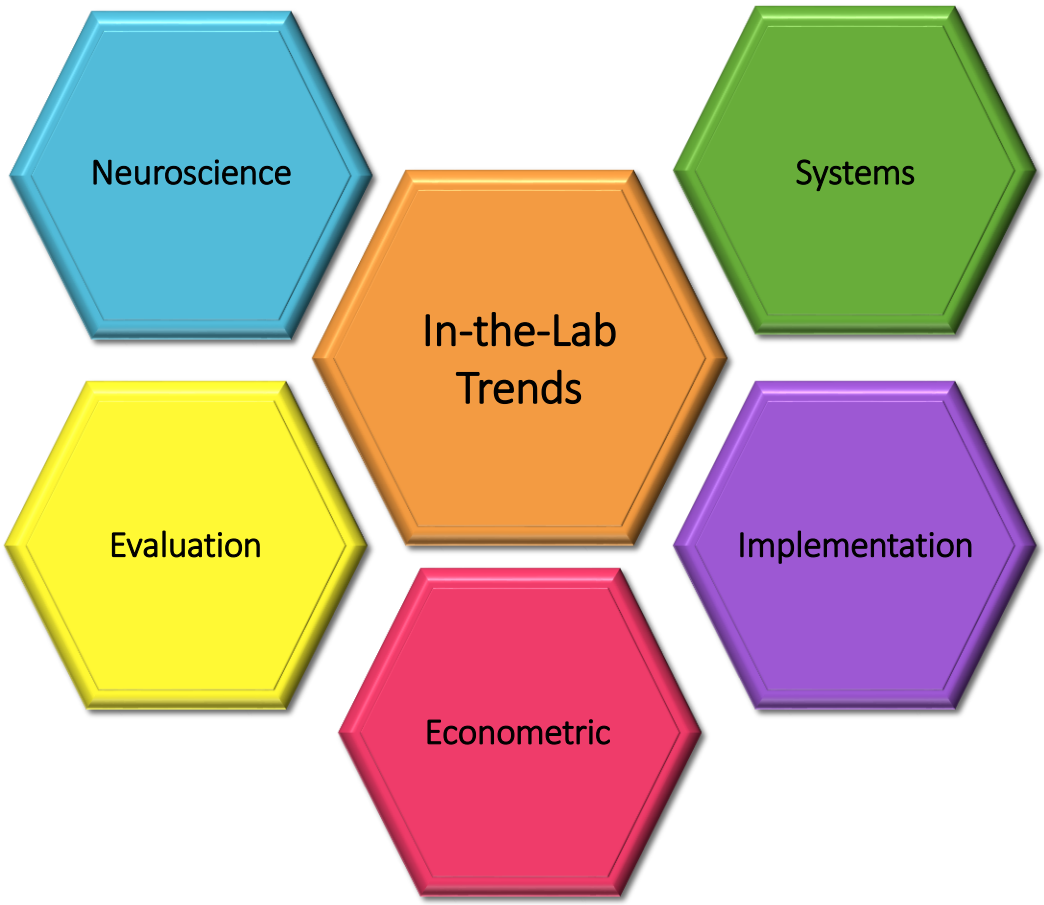
Part I:
Thinking Fresh

USA, the Great

- Time traveler looking at USA past
  - Incredible progress
  - Incredible lessons to build on
- But the time traveler would also realize that it is a new era that calls for fresh thinking

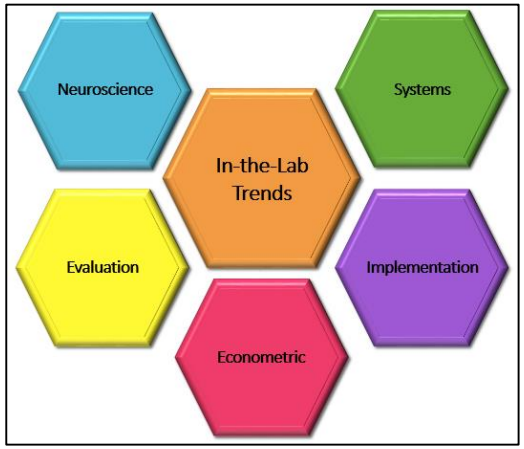


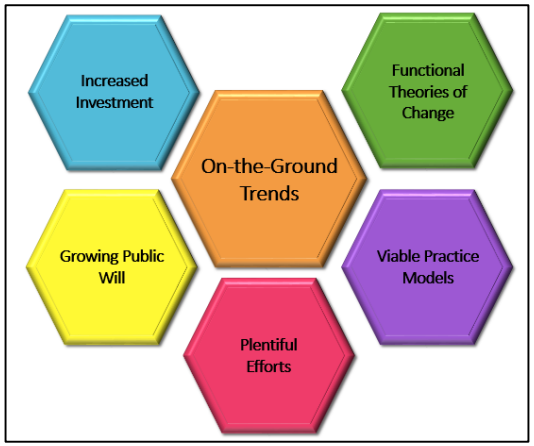
In-the-Lab Trends

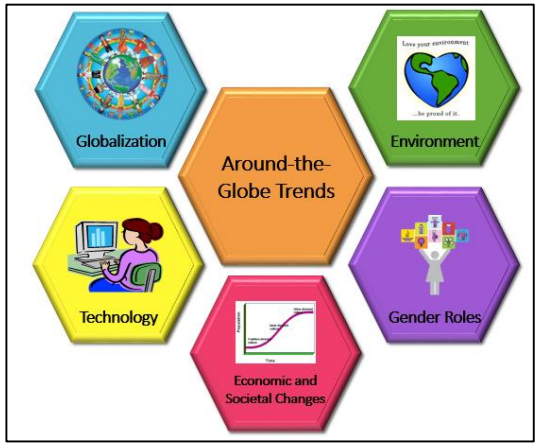


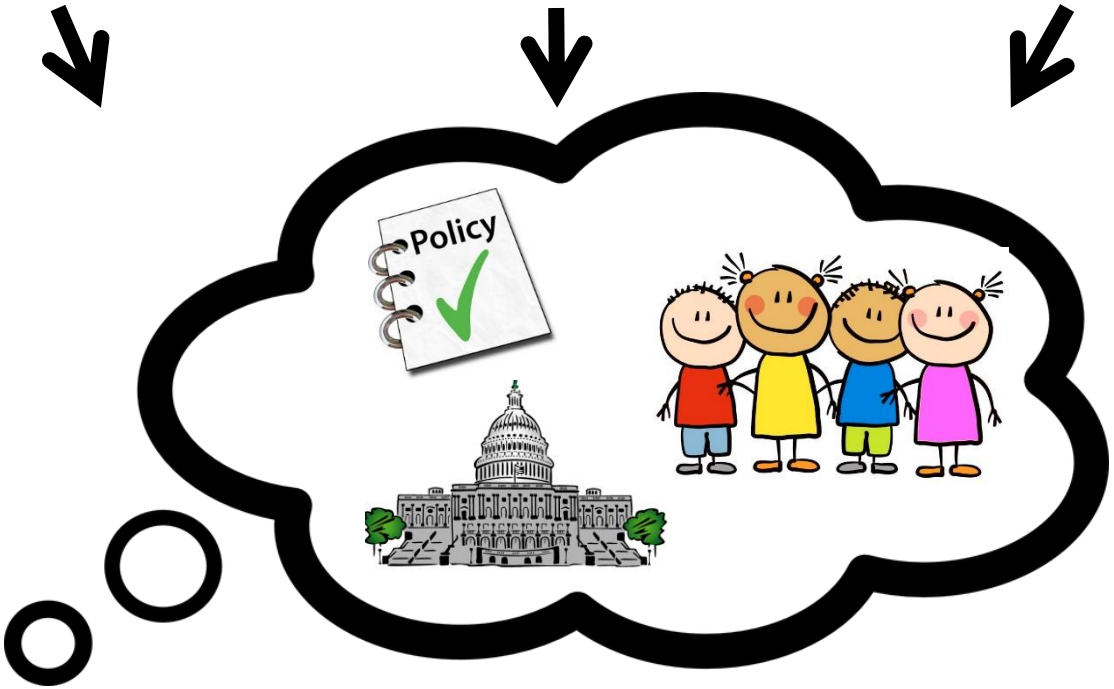
On-the-Ground Trends

Around-the-Globe Trends

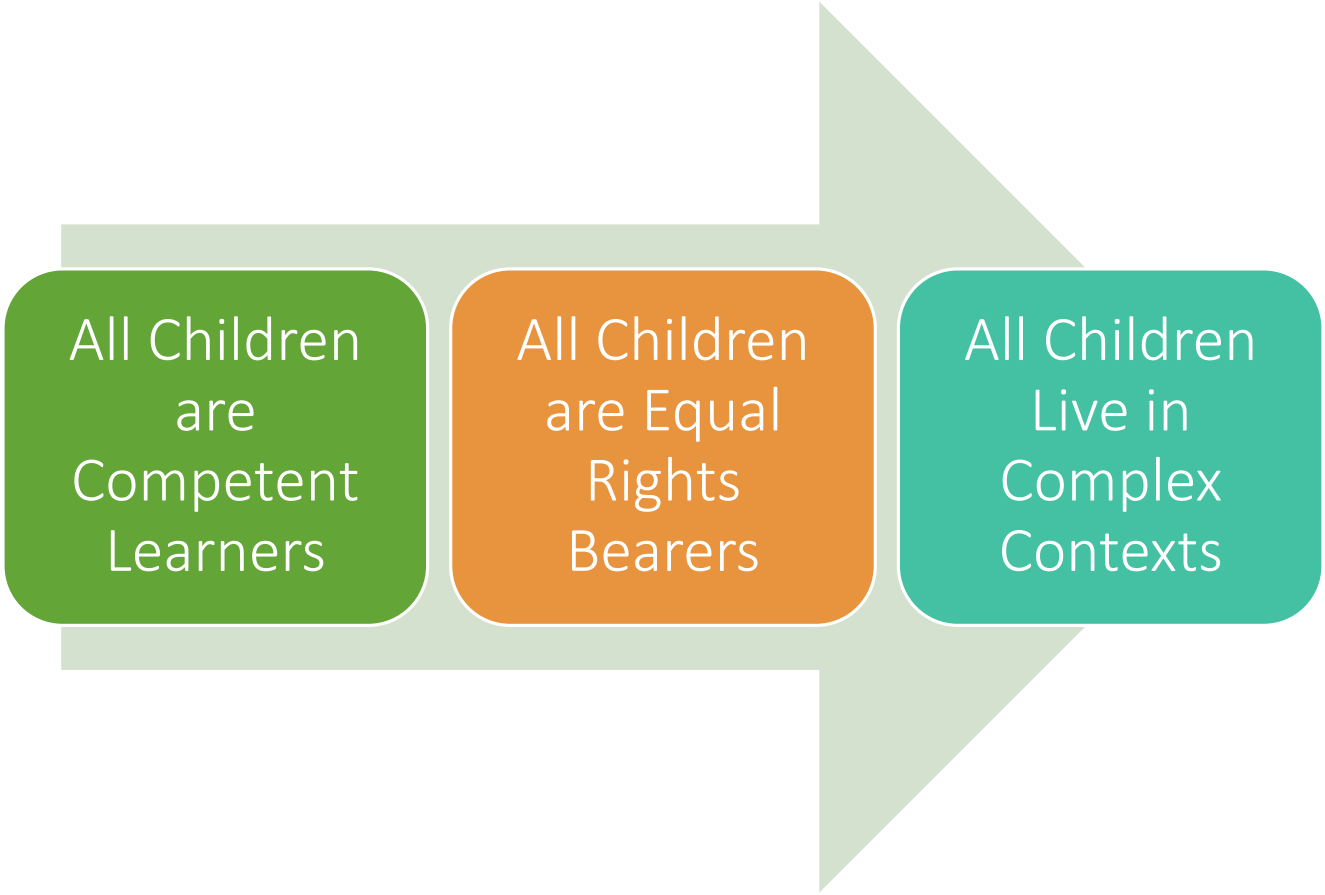

Neuroscience
Systems
In-the-Lab Trends
Evaluation
Implementation
Econometric


Increased Investment
Functional Theories of Change
On-the-Ground Trends
Growing Public Will
Viable Practice Models
Plentiful Efforts

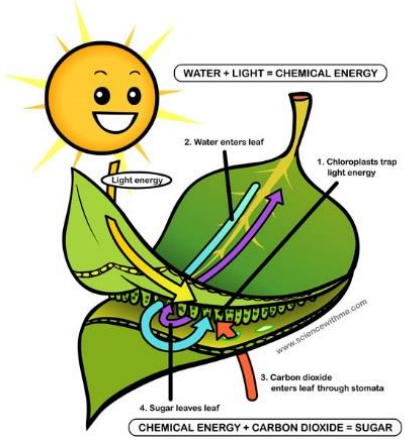

Globalization
Environment
Around-the-Globe Trends
Technology
Gender Roles
Economic and Societal Changes


Policy

Think Fresh About Children



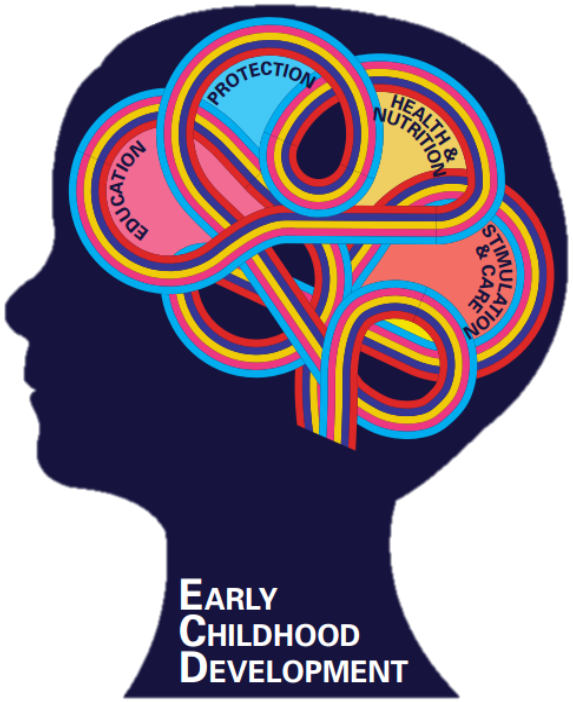
Children are Competent Learners

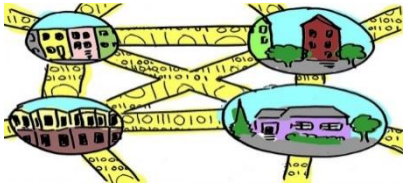


Children are Equal Rights Bearers

- Children have entitlements:
  - Safety
  - Protection
  - Education
  - Health and nutrition
  - Equality
  - Environment

Children Live in Complex Contexts





All Children are Competent Learners

All Children are Equal Rights Bearers

All Children Live in Complex Contexts

Policies That Promote High ***QUALITY*** Pedagogy and Learning

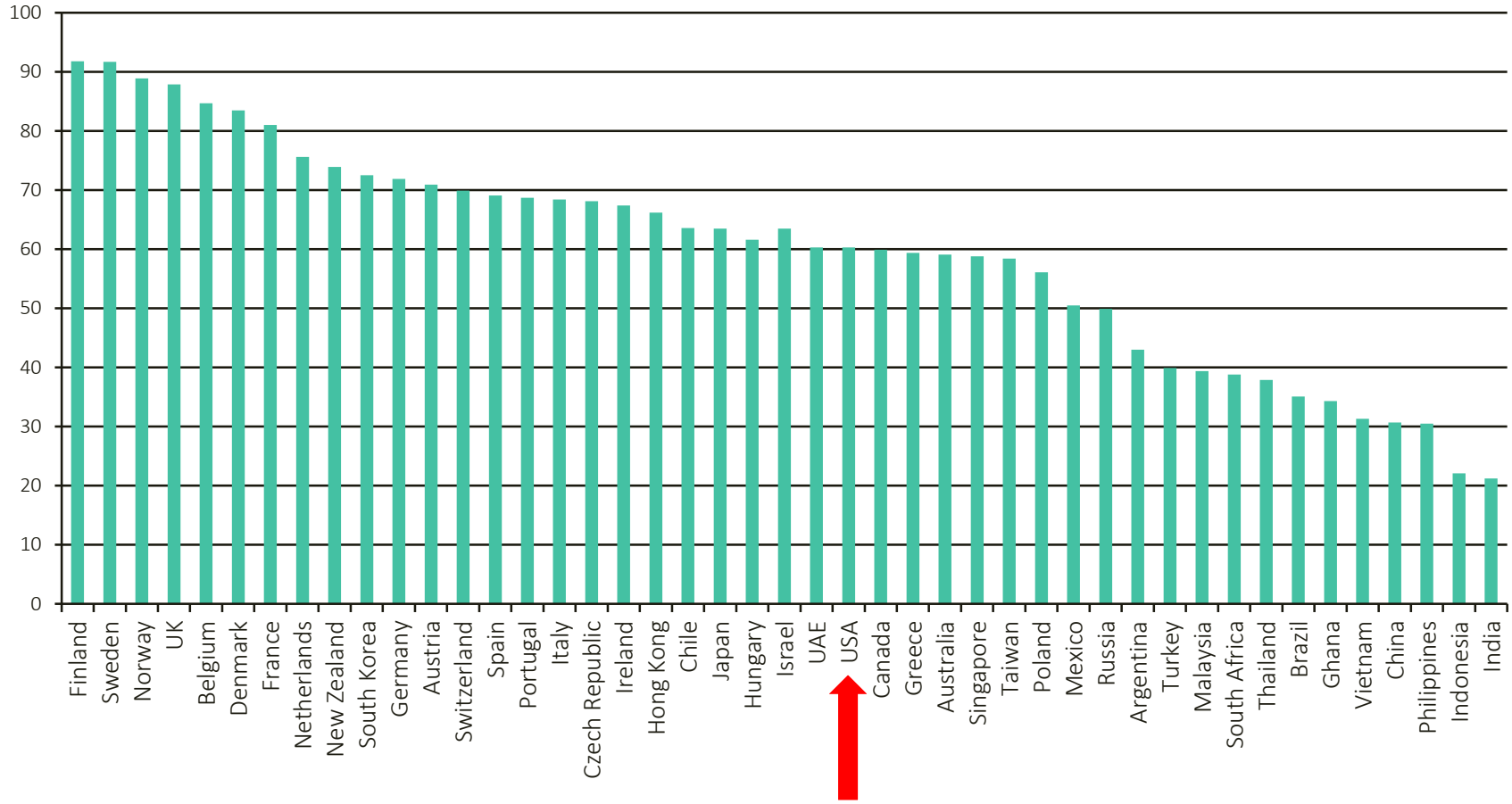
Policies That Distribute a Range of Services ***EQUITABLY***

Policies that are ***EFFICIENT, ORGANIZED, and SUSTAINED***

Obligated to Focus on All Three Areas

The USA Challenge

Starting Well Index of early childhood education and care performance globally

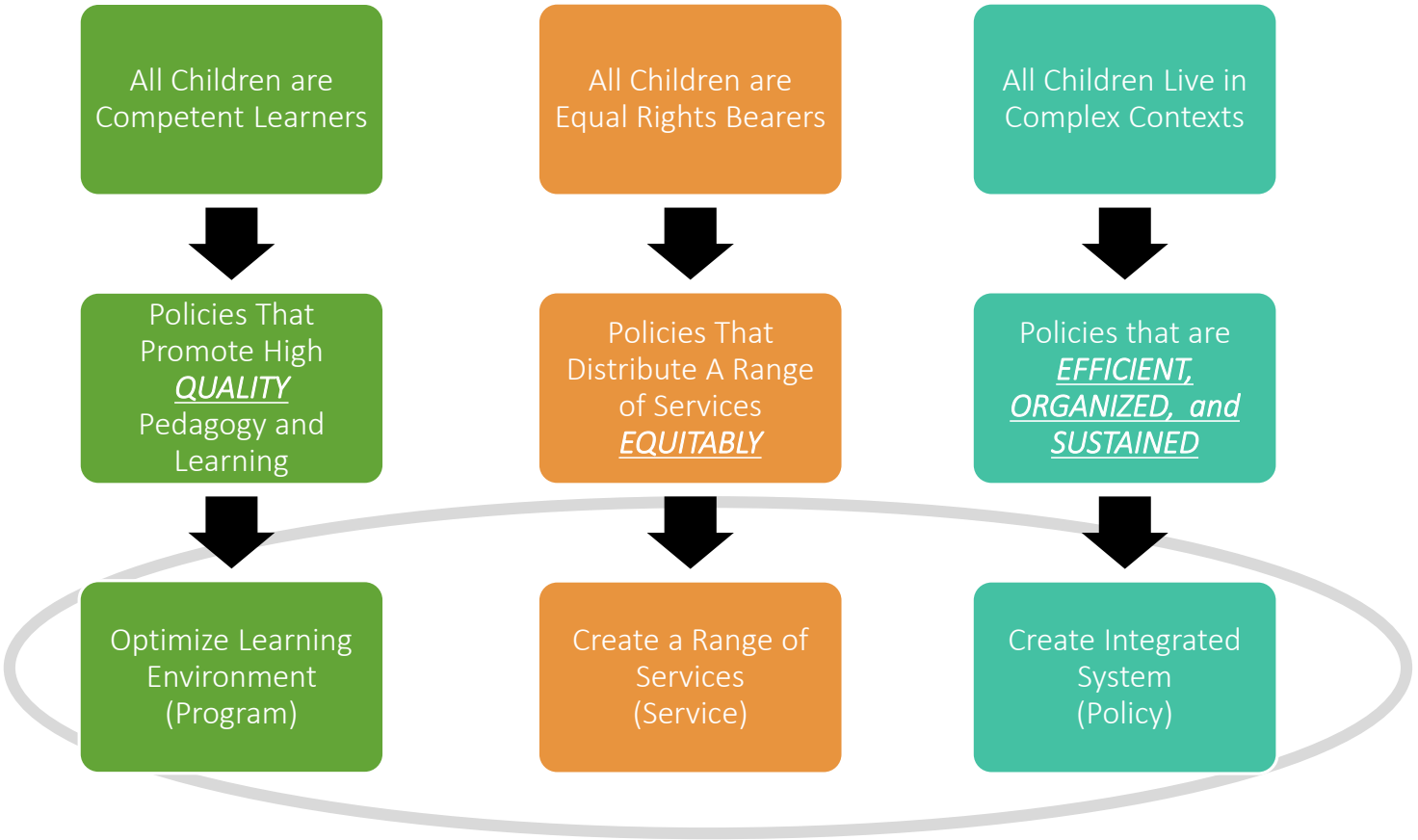


* Overall performance assesses quality, availability, and affordability of ECE services in each country

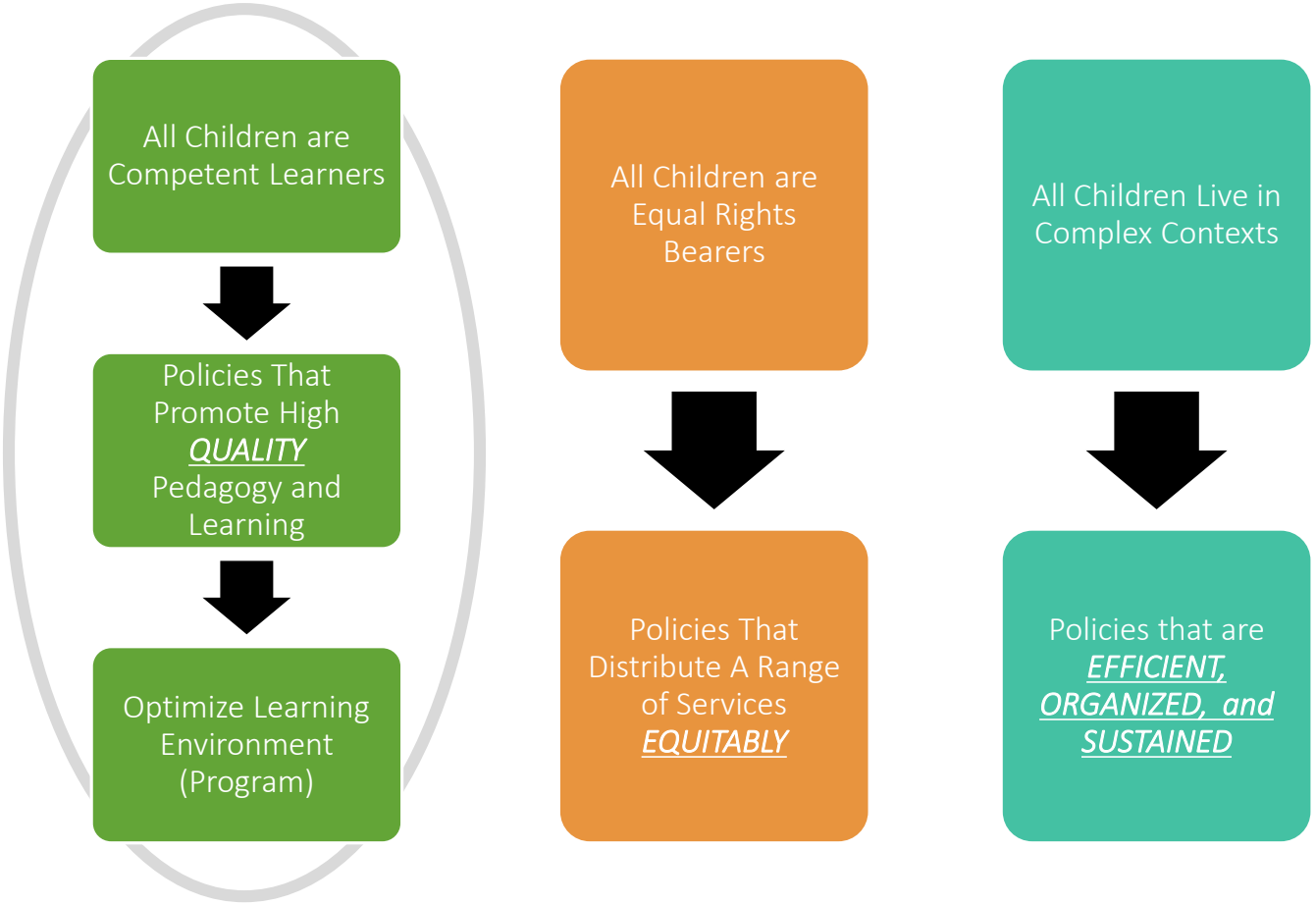
Watson, J. (2012). Starting well: Benchmarking early education across the world. Economist Intelligence Unit. Commissioned by LIEN Foundation.

Part II:
Acting Smart

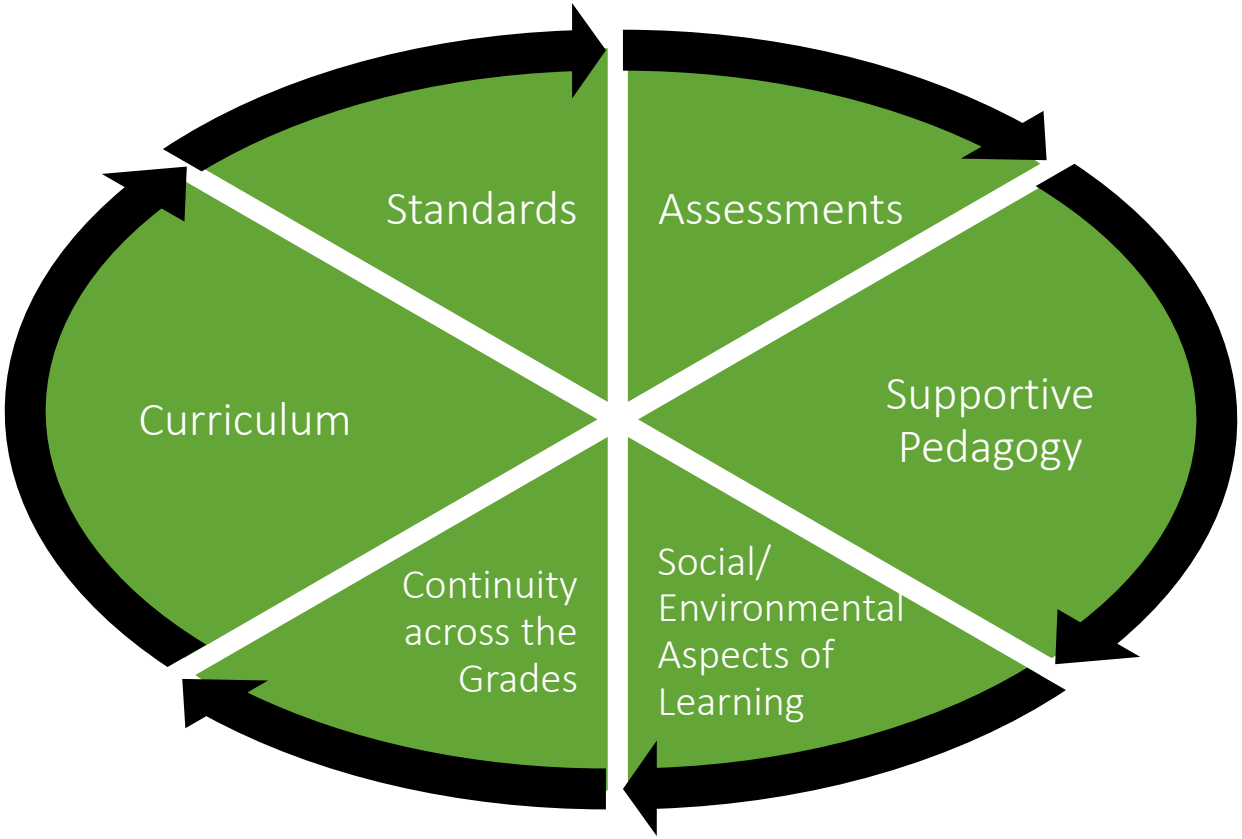
Three Environments for Acting Smart: Programs, Services and Policies



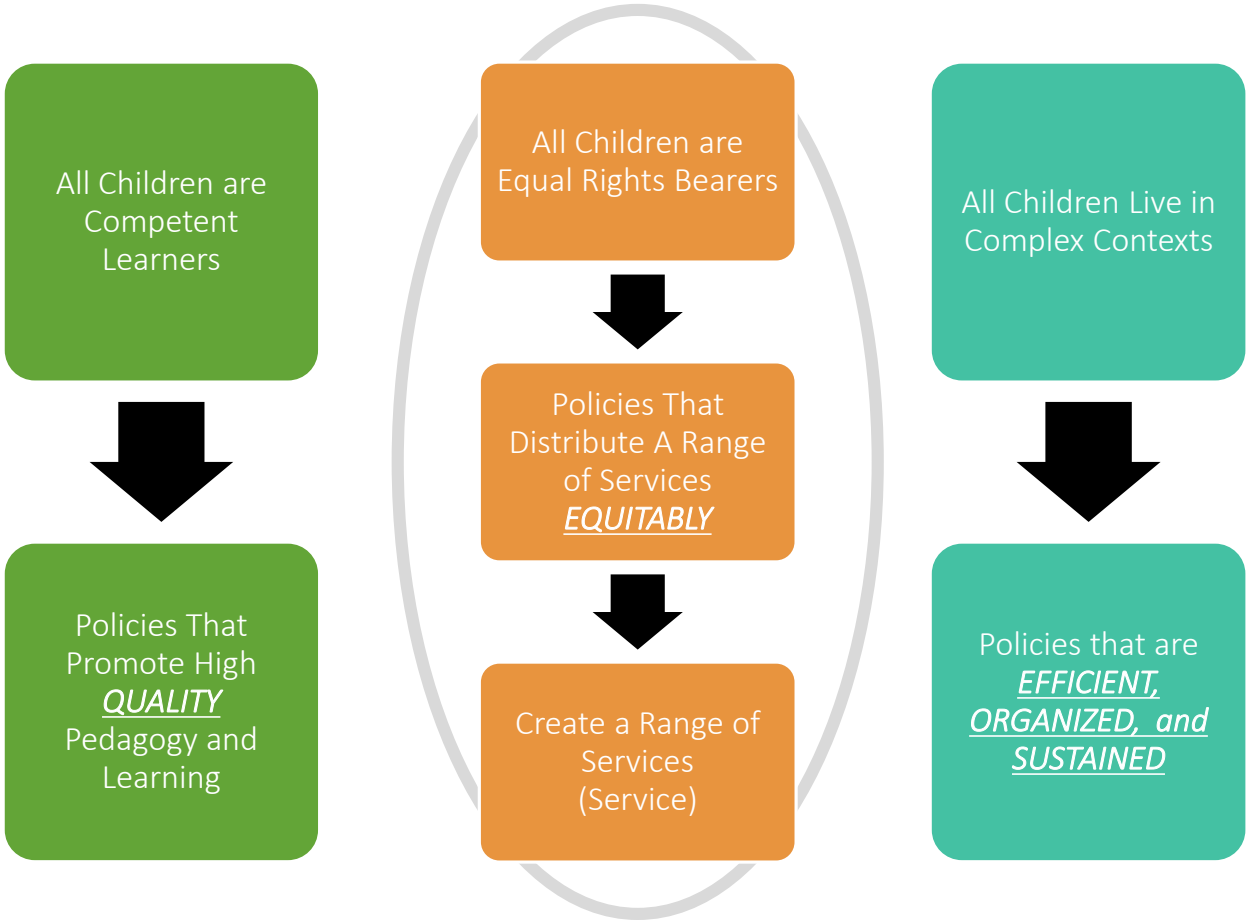
Implications for Acting Smart



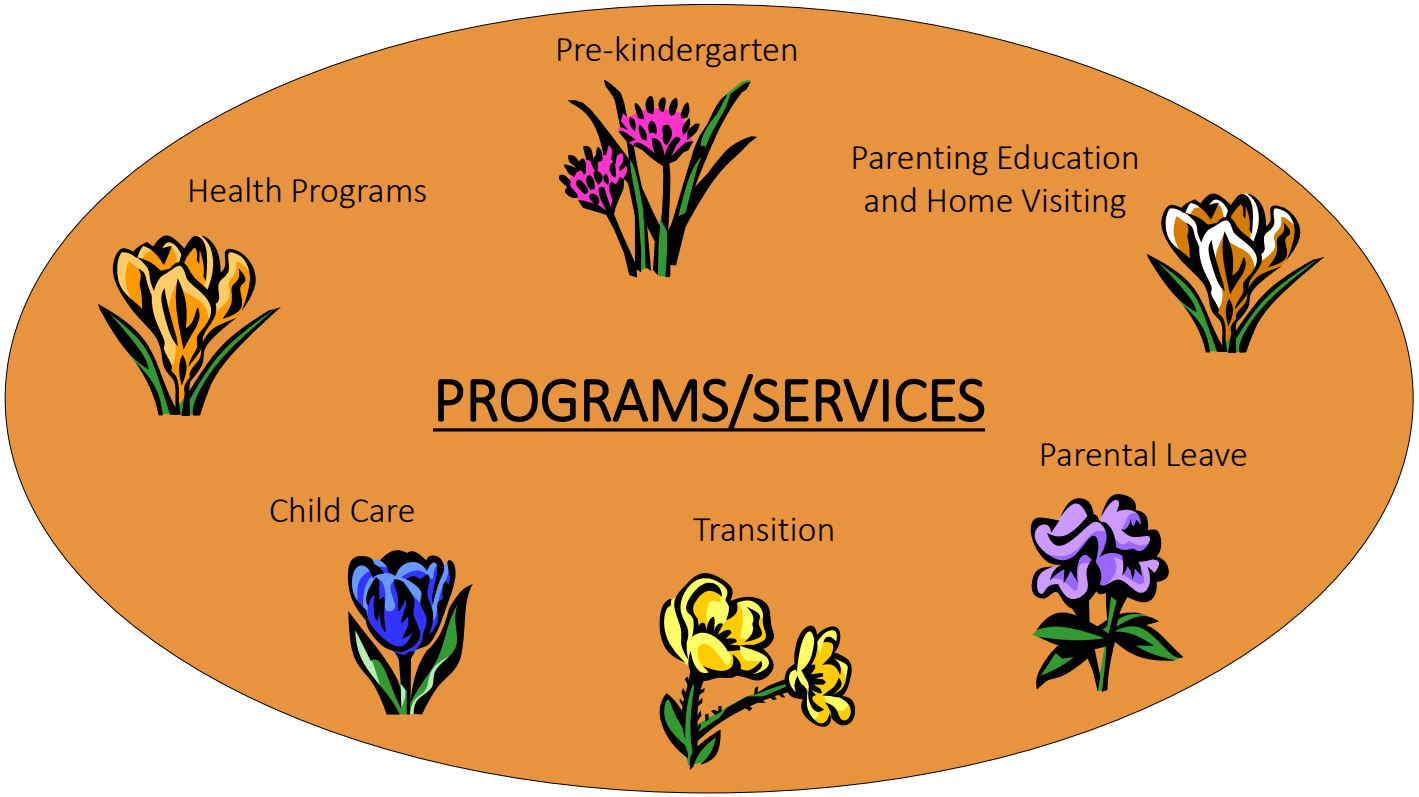
Learning/Program Environment



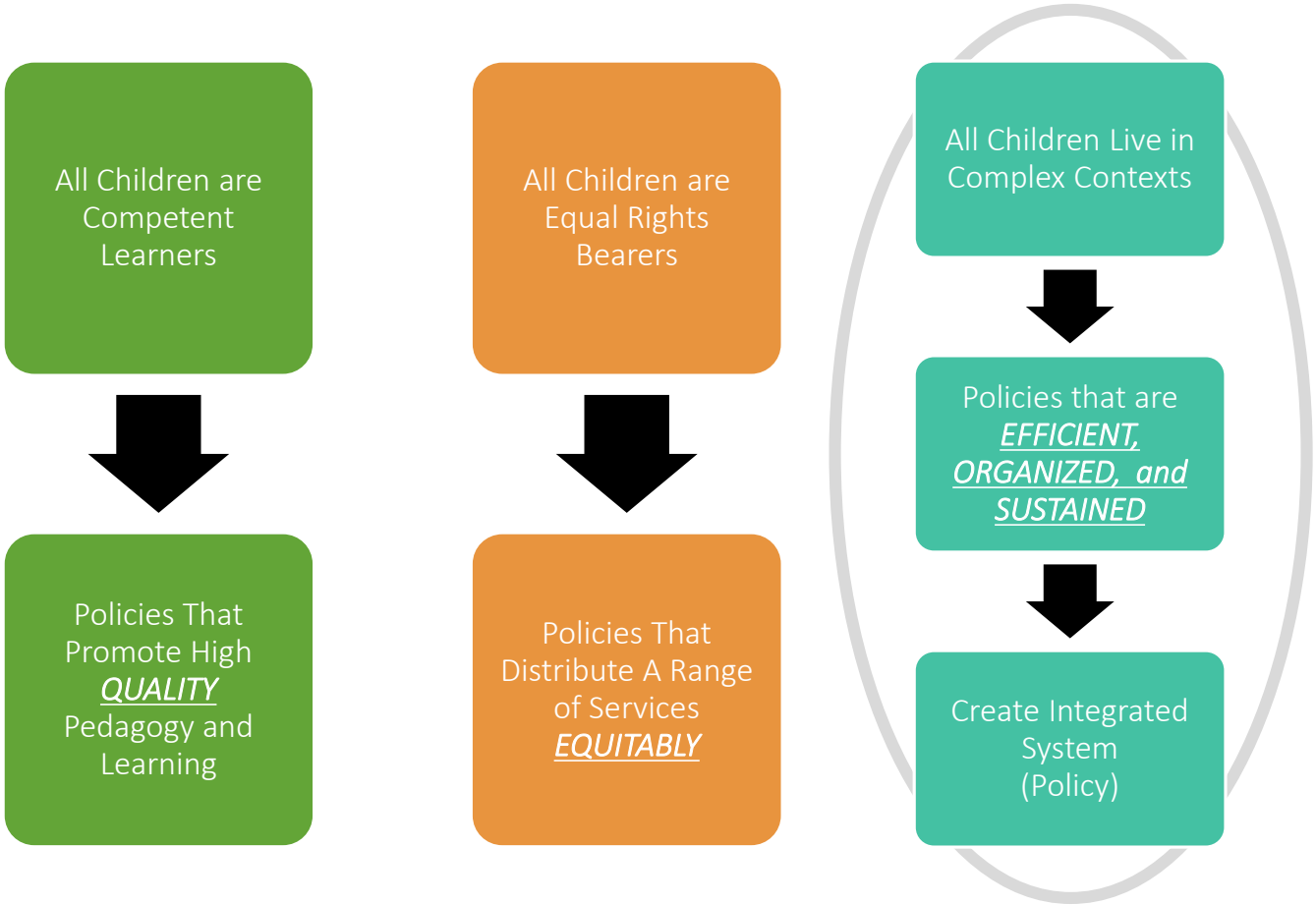
Implications for Acting Differently

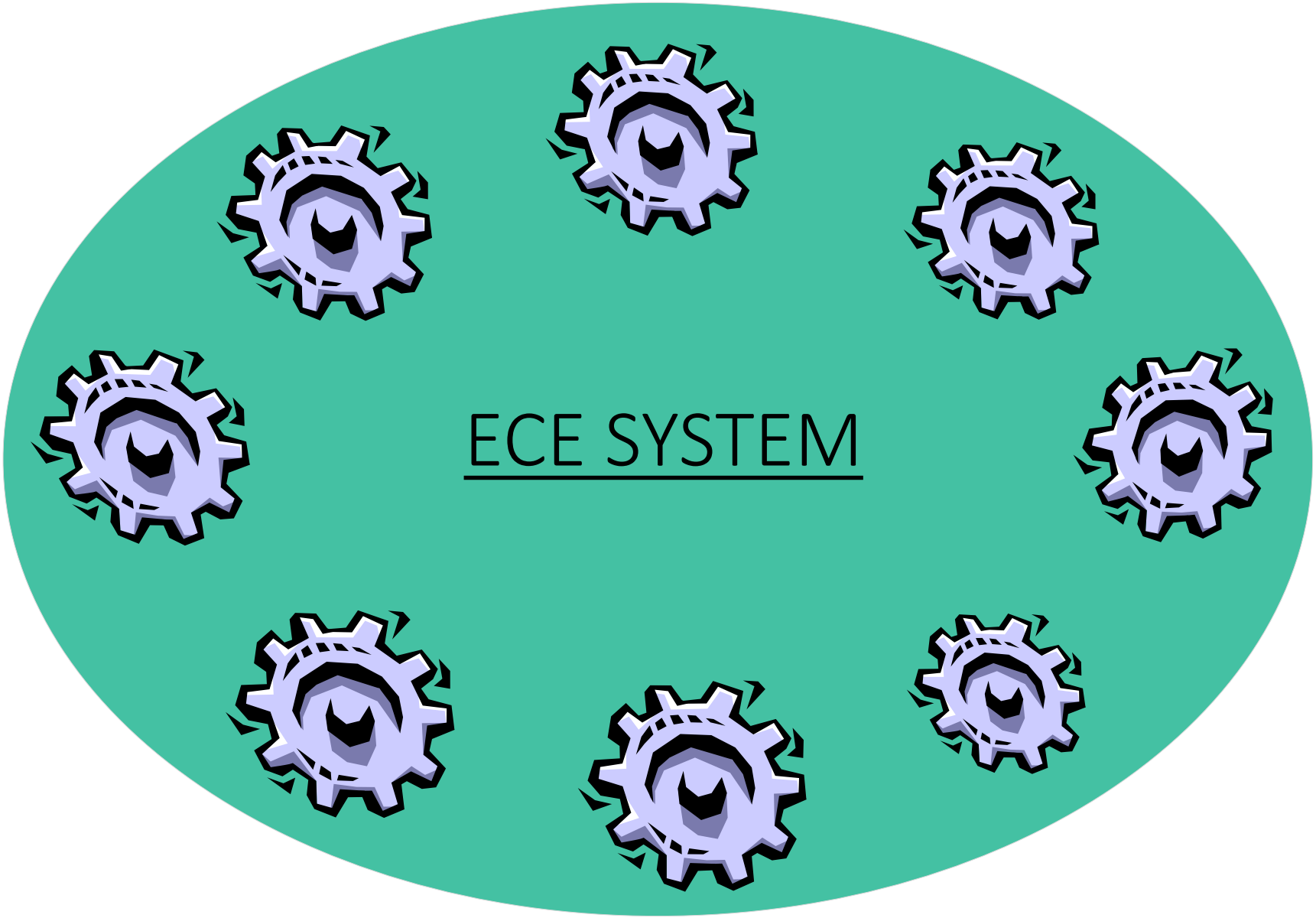


Services Environment

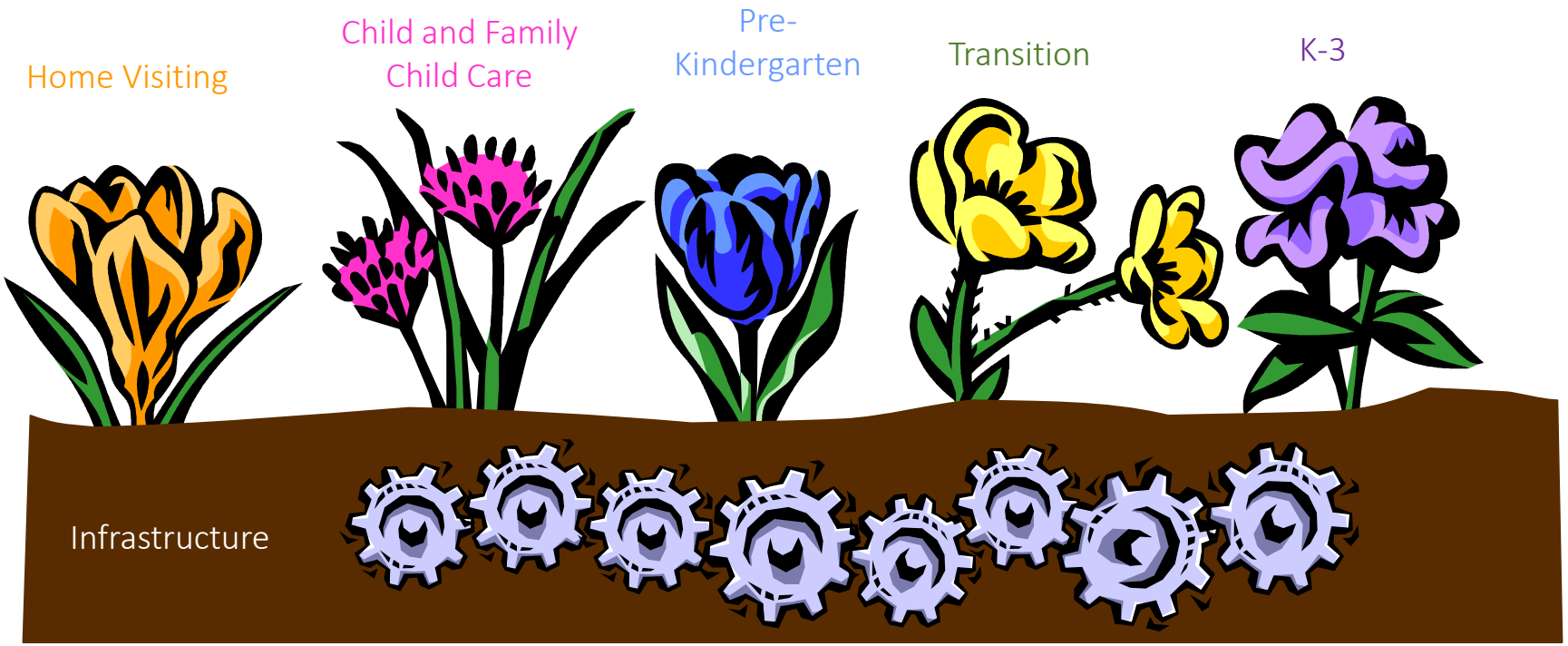


All Children in a Holistic Context




ECE SYSTEM

The ECE System: A Metaphor



Source: Kagan, S. L., & Cohen, N. E. (1997). Not by chance: Creating an early care and education system. New Haven, CT: Yale University Bush Center in Child Development and Social Policy.

ECE System

1. Quality pedagogy, teaching, and learning
   - Rich, varied learning opportunities that engage children and produce positive outcomes
   - Characterized by activity, inquiry, reflection, and curiosity
   - Standards, curriculum, and assessments

2. Data use for program improvement-program regulations and inspection
   - Done regularly by professionals
   - Information from inspections needs to be used for quality improvement

3. Professional development
   - Pre-service and in-service
   - Consistent requirements for all teachers

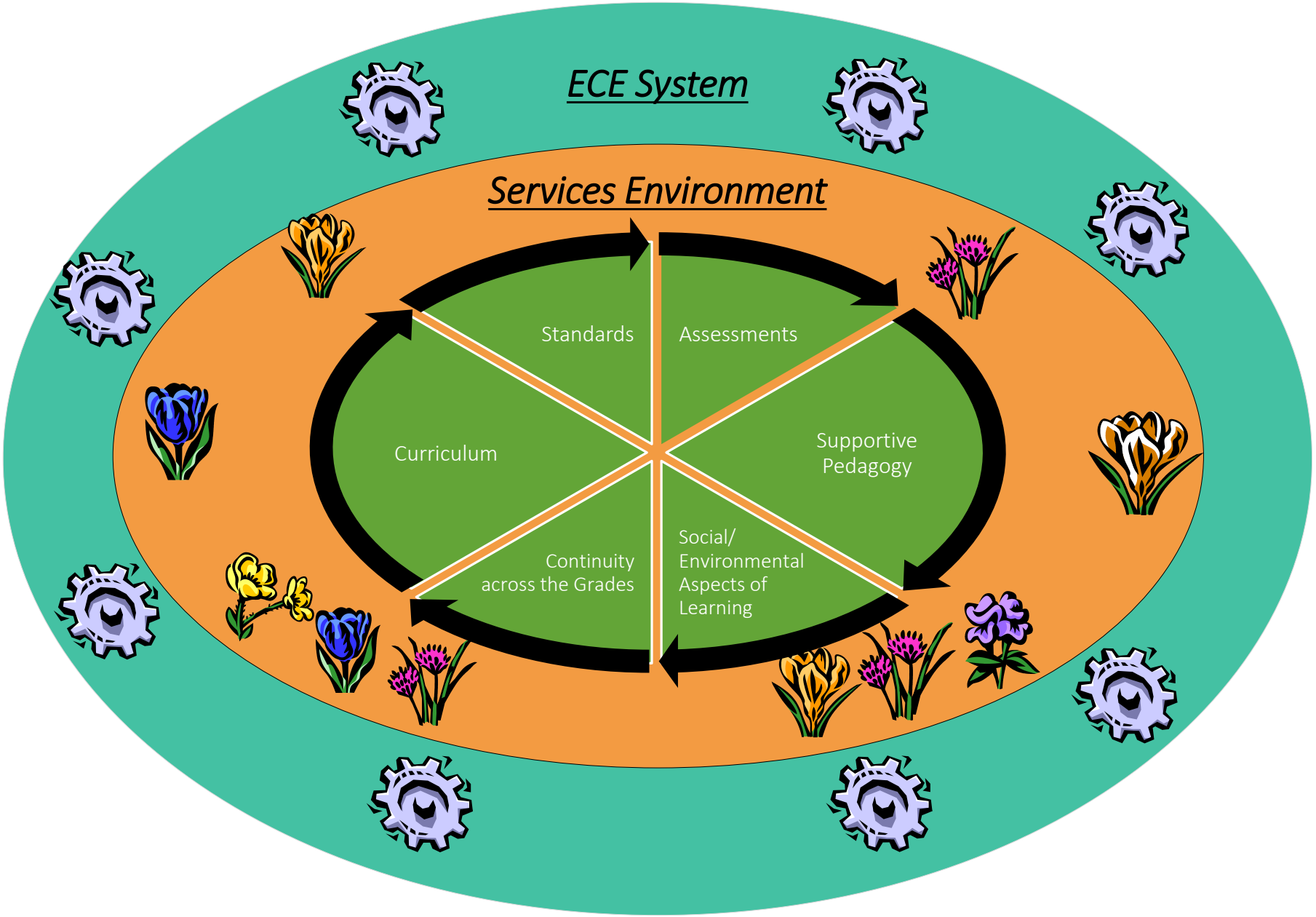
ECE System (continued)

4. Financing mechanisms
   - Too much focus on quantity, not quality
   - Need consistency in funding, and to blend public/private funds inventively

5. Governance
   - Horizontal: which ministry (e.g., health, education)
   - Vertical: which level (e.g., national, local)
   - Brings clarity on who does what, for whom, when, and with what authority

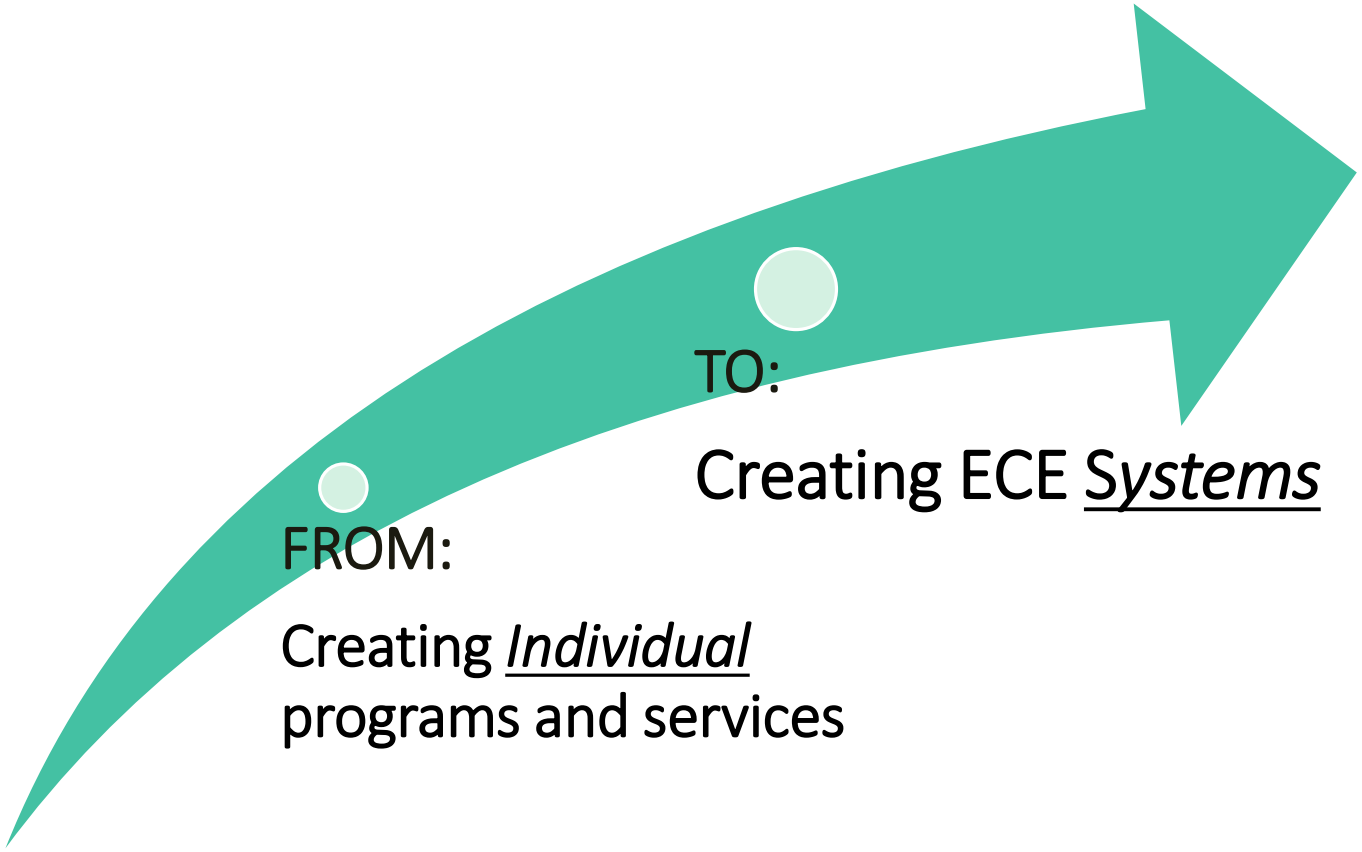
6. Family and community engagement
   - Major commitment to family engagement in programs and governance
   - Helps keep programs responsive, builds advocacy base for social change

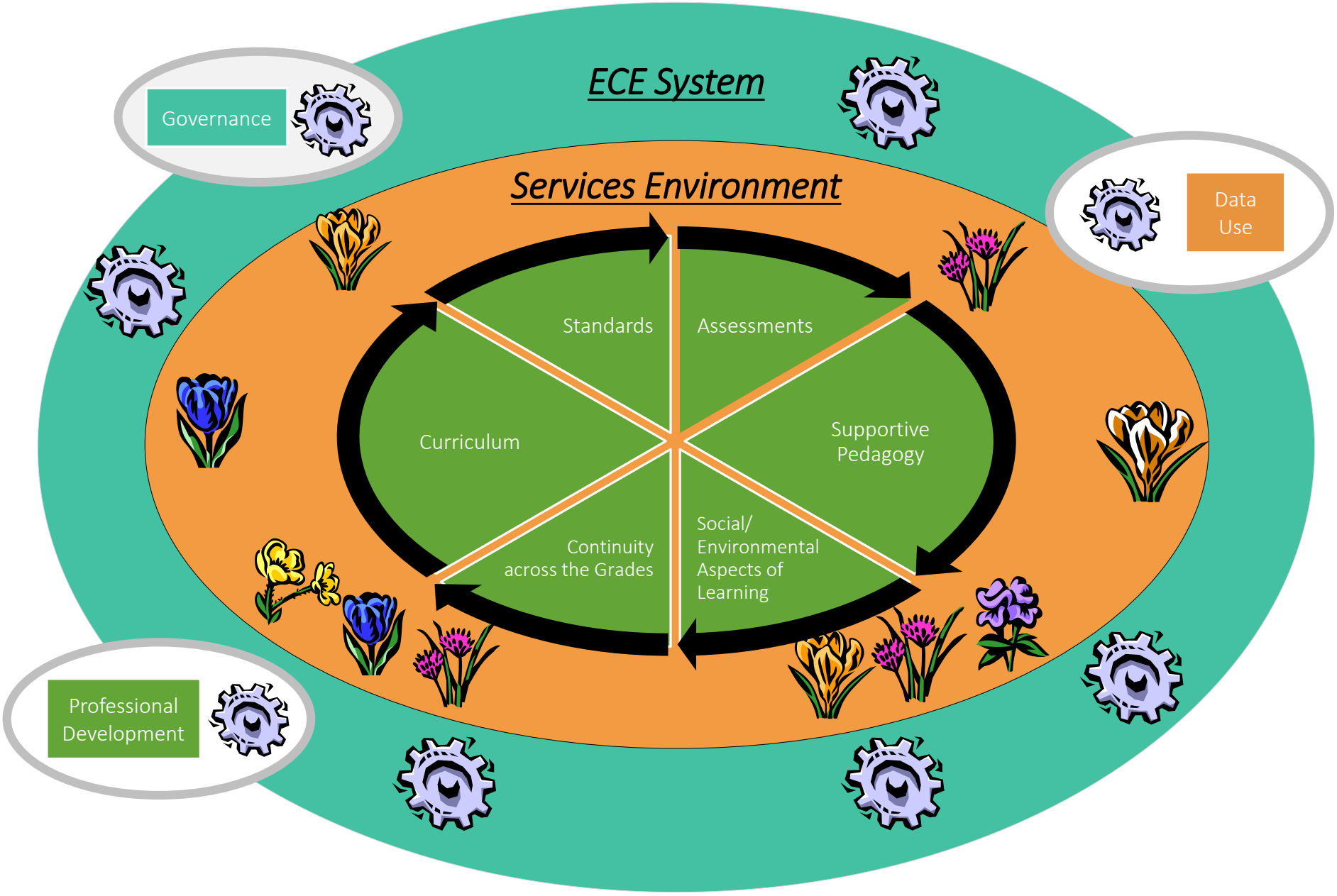
7. Transitions/linkages
   - From pre-primary to primary
   - Among health, education, social services

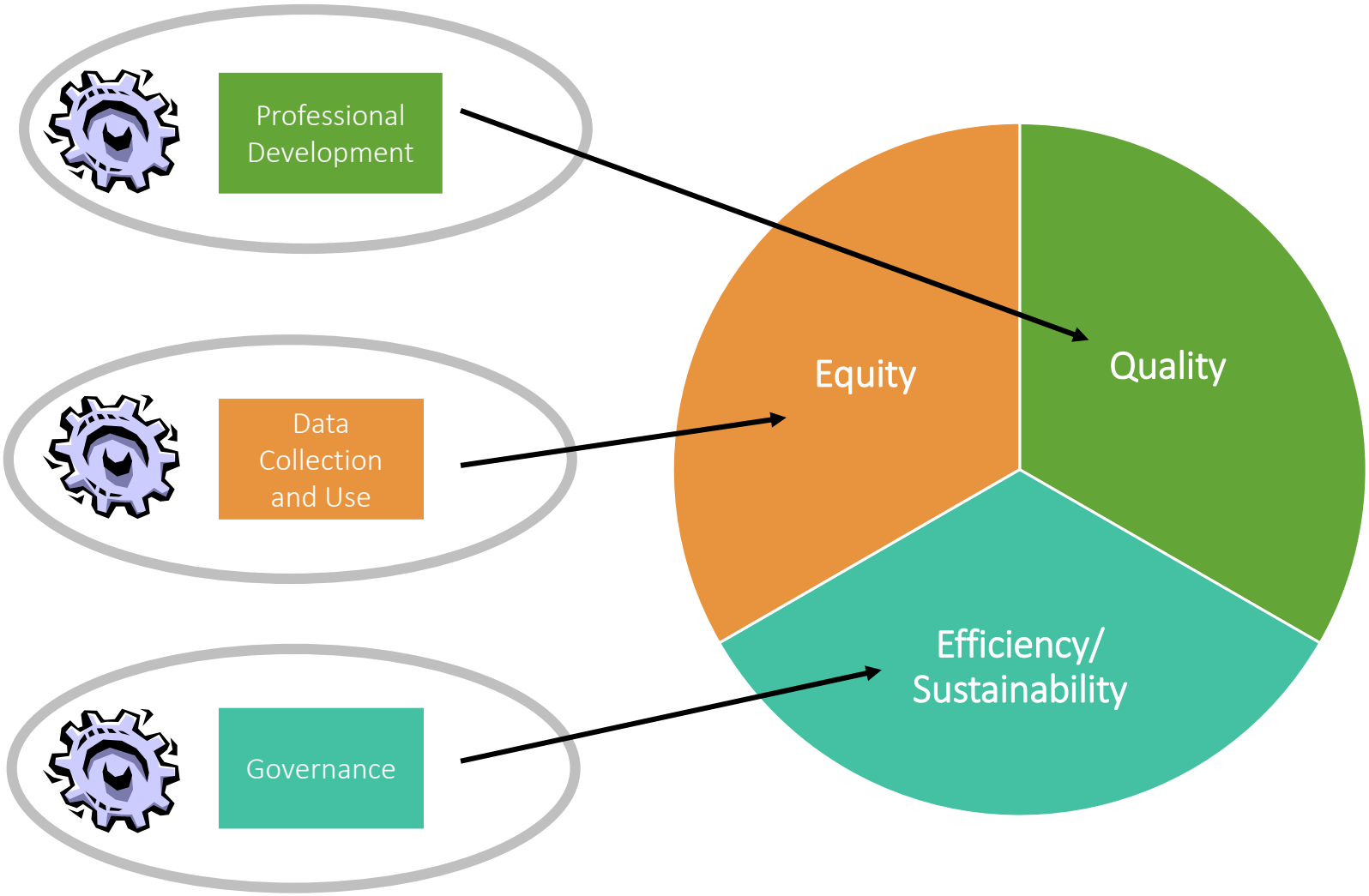

ECE System
Services Environment
Standards
Assessments
Curriculum
Supportive Pedagogy
Continuity across the Grades
Social/ Environmental Aspects of Learning

Part III:
Creating Systems

The Big Shift

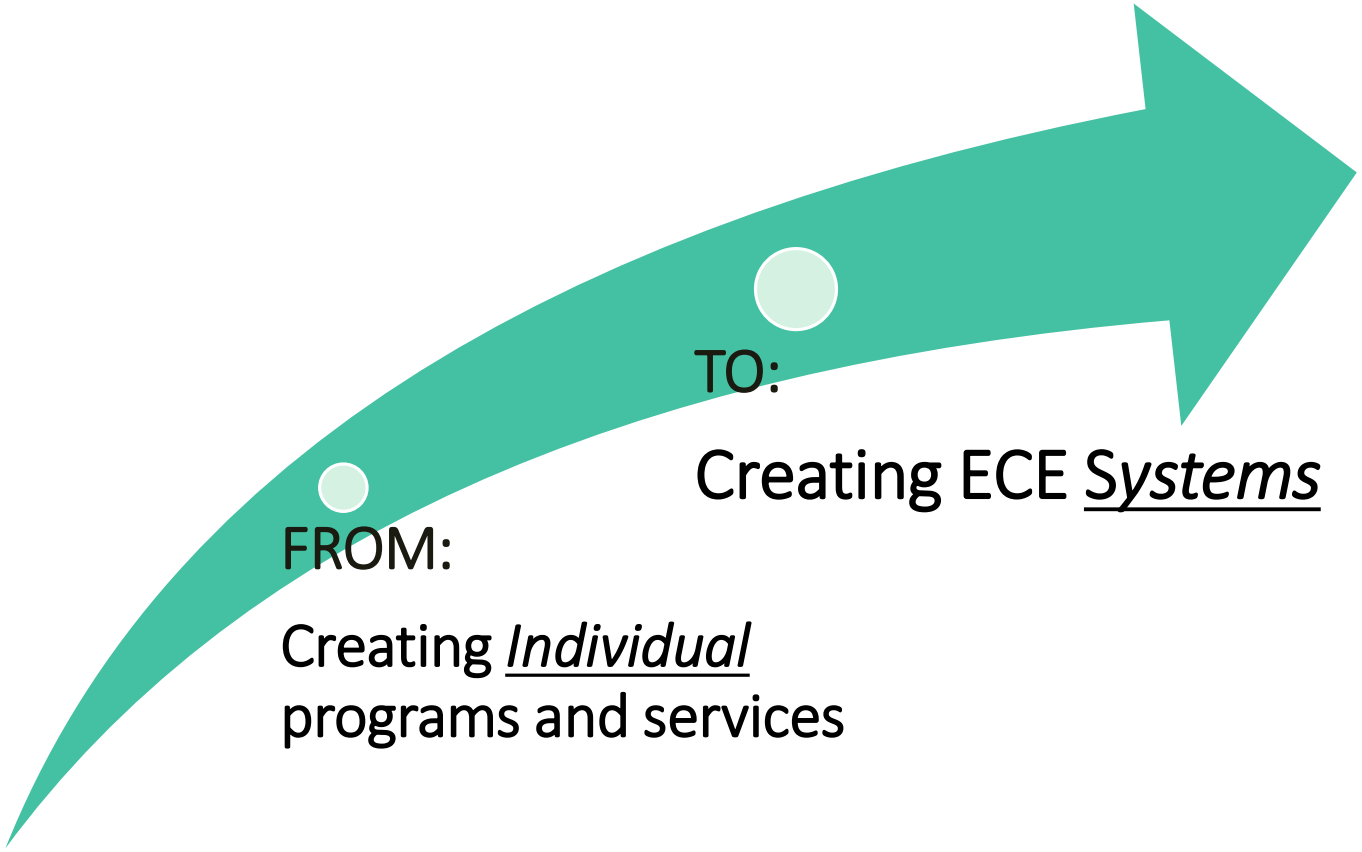



ECE System
Governance
Services Environment
Data Use
Standards
Assessments
Curriculum
Supportive Pedagogy
Continuity across the Grades
Social/ Environmental Aspects of Learning
Professional Development


Professional Development
Data Collection and Use
Governance
Equity
Quality
Efficiency/ Sustainability

Think different.

"The people who think they can change the world are the ones who do."

Apple's "Think Different" Commercial 1997
Foreword to Walter Isaacson's book, Steve Jobs

Lesson II: Similar Actions