PROMOTING READINESS, EQUITY AND QUALITY – Table Conversations

There are many places and spaces that can and should contribute to social, emotional, cognitive, and academic development; it is the role of families, schools, and youth development organizations to work together to ensure that they are all considered and adequately resourced. Bolstered by data, communities can take bigger, bolder steps toward two goals: 1) shedding light on inequitable access to learning opportunities, and 2) providing guidance, incentives, and resources to ensure that accessible opportunities not only exist but reflect the science of learning and development.

1. Think about your own organization’s relationship to this picture:
   - Describe what you do, referencing the picture.
   - Where do you (or your affiliates or local partners) show up in this picture?
     - Which settings across the top?
     - Which times/place/spaces down the left side?
   - Who are your people working in these spaces? What is their role? (e.g., direct service, training of educators/practitioners, side-by-side with other staff, etc.)

2. Think about the young people that are engaged in your programs:
   - Where do the young people that you work with show up in this picture? (Are they actively in school? Are you primarily connecting to them in the summertime?)
   - Across this picture, describe:
     - Access: What are they able to access easily?
     - Participation: What is their level of participation?
     - Quality: How diverse is the content? What is the quality of the learning environment/experience?
   - How does their experience compare to other young people in their community? In their school? (How does this picture look the same/different for their peers?)

3. Getting a handle on the equity picture:
   - Within this picture, do you have any examples of where you have data or information that helps you address these questions regarding access, participation and quality? Could you populate this picture with data?
   - If you were able to fill in this picture with data, how could this help your organization define and tackle equity issues?