Center for Family Math

Strategic Plan Executive Summary and Logic Model
Field-Informed Strategic Process
May 2021 – March 2022

• First Round interviews with 20 beneficiaries, leaders, and experts across the country to surface major opportunities, barriers, and concerns

• Strategic Planning Committee (& Working Groups with additional experts) totaling 32 people to design the strategy

• Second Round interviews with 14 people & focus groups with 38 people - community-based leaders, family-facing practitioners, parent and family leaders, school/district program managers, and state policy experts - to react to proposed goals and objectives

• A total of 100+ people engaged in the field
What is Family Math?

Culturally-relevant math activities and interactions occurring in the informal contexts in which families engage with young children

Beyond the activities families engage in, it includes:

• Awareness of math embedded in activities at home and in their communities
• Enthusiasm for and Comfort with engaging in math and in supporting young children’s math learning
• Access to resources for supporting early math learning and Knowledge about how to use these resources.
Why Family Math?

The Challenge

- Children who consistently struggle with math are less likely to receive a high school diploma or attend college.
- Fewer than ten percent of children from families least well served by the nation’s social, economic, and educational systems can count to 20 in preschool, a skill that correlates to the strongest math achievement in first grade.
Why Family Math?

The Opportunity

• Young children’s mathematical abilities are broad and deep and develop from birth into and through high school and beyond

• Entering kindergarten with early math skills is the best predictor of 8th grade performance regardless of race, gender, or family socioeconomic status

• Early math skills predict later academic performance more than reading abilities or socio-emotional development
Math skills and knowledge develop everywhere, all the time—not just in schools.

Research shows that the ways that families talk to children about math, do math activities with them in the home and in the community, and connect with communities and schools around math, improves children’s math outcomes.

Children can develop a positive self-identity around using math—rather than defaulting to a sense that “I’m not a math person”—and to understand and enjoy the power of math to solve problems, support critical thinking and problem-solving, and to open doors to a successful future.
Why a Center for Family Math?

Establish a national home for the growing family math movement
• special attention to systems and equity

Convene existing organizations to set the table for greater collaboration
• special attention to a common policy agenda & shared research agenda

Expand interest & develop new partnerships
• support STEM educators for family engagement & vice versa
• engage field of Early Education, and beyond

Elevate the field
• promote established/agreed-upon best practices & support innovation
• curate, “translate,” and disseminate research & evidence

Provide a go-to, one-stop shop for practitioners, communities, and families
Family Math is a way to support millions of children, particularly those from low-income families, at home and in communities for academic success. Family math can help people develop a positive self-identity around using math—rather than defaulting to a sense that “I’m not a math person”—and to understand and enjoy the power of math to solve problems, support critical thinking and problem-solving, and to open doors to a successful future.
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Families can engage in culturally relevant math activities in interactions occurring in informal contexts with children (Eason et al., 2020), including activities and conversations families engage in; awareness of math embedded in the home and in their communities; and enthusiasm for and comfort with engaging in math and in supporting math learning.

Family-facing Practitioners can emphasize math; open doors to families to ensure access to resources and ideas; elevate and expand the math that families already do; and build relationships around math in the community.

Math Educators can emphasize family engagement; support parents as first teachers; and leverage the power that already exists in families and communities.

Family Math will improve academic success for millions of children, particularly those traditionally underserved by the education system.

Family math can help people develop a positive self-identity around using math—rather than defaulting to a sense that “I’m not a math person”—and to understand and enjoy the power of math to solve problems, support critical thinking, and to open doors to a successful future beyond academics.

Family Math advances learning and equity for each and every child.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTINUUM OF COLLABORATIVE ACTION</th>
<th>EXPLORING</th>
<th>EMERGING</th>
<th>SUSTAINING</th>
<th>SYSTEMS CHANGE</th>
<th>SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
<th>IMPACT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scale Practice &amp; Tools for Schools, Families, and Communities</strong></td>
<td>Identify gaps in practice</td>
<td>Develop a national practice clearinghouse</td>
<td>Expand good practices ensuring that quality is maintained at scale</td>
<td>For Practitioners and CBOS support knowledge, skills, and mindsets</td>
<td>High-quality materials and practices support parent, practitioner, and community capacity</td>
<td>Practitioners, researchers, and school and community educators have knowledge, skills, and dispositions to enhance family math and support families, children, and youth.</td>
<td><strong>Family Math advances learning and equity for each and every child.</strong></td>
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<td>Identify impactful, accessible, and culturally sustaining practices for both schools and families/communities</td>
<td>Elevate successful practices</td>
<td>Promote practice innovation through co-design</td>
<td>For Educators and School System Leaders, support knowledge, skills, and mindsets</td>
<td>Effective teaching and leadership resources are widely used in schools</td>
<td>A sustainable evidence-informed field with a national research agenda that provides understandable and usable knowledge for improving outreach, policy, school instruction, and family math engagement.</td>
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<td><strong>Develop Partner Capacity &amp; Expand the Field</strong></td>
<td>Identify partner-stakeholders</td>
<td>Support partners to prioritize family math</td>
<td>Support partners in outreach to their own partnerships to expand the field</td>
<td>Support partners’ impact in the field to reach, engage, and influence families</td>
<td>An expanded field contributes to and uses a national clearinghouse of resources</td>
<td>Families have understanding, confidence, and agency to embrace and build their family math confidence and ability.</td>
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<td>Collaborative action establishes shared measures of initial, mid-term, and long-term success</td>
<td>Develop internal capacity of partners, including contribution to and use of success data</td>
<td>Field communicates status and progress against success measures</td>
<td>Schools and Communities contribute to and consume success measures data</td>
<td>A common set of measures of success guides Collaborative Action</td>
<td>Children and Youth develop positive math identity and experience academic, economic, and civic success.</td>
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<td><strong>Build Broad Understanding &amp; Engagement about Family Math</strong></td>
<td>Develop messaging that shifts perceptions and promotes the love of math</td>
<td>Employ messaging campaign among partners</td>
<td>Employ messaging campaign in communities and policy ecosystem</td>
<td>Policymakers and other key constituencies understand and value the importance of early math, and math in general, as part of children’s healthy growth and development</td>
<td>A robust research field provides understandable and usable knowledge for improving outreach, policy, school instruction, and family engagement</td>
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<td>Identify leading equity policy organizations to embrace family math</td>
<td>Engage in the national policy conversation to identify policy needs</td>
<td>Identify and develop champions and ambassadors of family math</td>
<td>Support champions and ambassadors</td>
<td>Policy tracking and positioning centers math as an equity priority</td>
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<td><strong>Create Relevant and Inclusive Evidence Base for the Field</strong></td>
<td>Curate research that differentiates the benefits of family math practices and programs for different groups under different circumstances</td>
<td>Communicate, &quot;translate,&quot; and disseminate research</td>
<td>Build partnerships that can strengthen the research base</td>
<td>Sustain partnerships for research</td>
<td>A robust research field provides understandable and usable knowledge for improving outreach, policy, school instruction, and family engagement</td>
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<td>Review Roadmap Research Agenda</td>
<td>Identify expanded research partners</td>
<td>Support research</td>
<td>Develop the next generation of researchers</td>
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<td>** Cultivate long term Investment &amp; Sustainability**</td>
<td>Establish a cross-sector partnership supported by a national Center</td>
<td>Center attracts multiple sources of revenue</td>
<td>Center sustainability plan developed</td>
<td>Center capable of attracting support for, or regranting to, partners</td>
<td>Appropriate levels of public support for family math at the community, state, and national levels</td>
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# Vision

A world where Family Math advances learning and equity for each and every child.

**Advancing research, policies, practices, partnerships, and systems that inspire, harness, and amplify the power and love of math through family and community engagement.**

## Guiding Principles

**ACCESS**
Ensure equitable opportunity for young people to develop math identity, experience, and ability

**EVIDENCE**
Promote the research and evidence base for high-quality program and practice design, use, and analysis of impact

**RESPECT**
Respect youth, families, communities, and practitioners as the leaders and beneficiaries of the work

**UNDERSTANDING**
Foster partners/stakeholders’ realization that math is a vital equity issue and their willingness to make family math a priority in early education and beyond

**CAPACITY**
Support the policies and practices in schools, communities, and families necessary for family math

## Mission

Guiding Principles

**Collaboration**
Collaboration

**Inclusion**
Inclusion

**Partnership**
Partnership

**Equity**
Equity

**Relationships**
Relationships

**Trust**
Trust

### Strategic Goals

#### Collaborative, Inclusive, and Equitable Family Math Practices

**Practice**
Identify gaps in practice; elevate and expand good practices ensuring high-quality at scale; and foster co-design of innovative, impactful, and accessible and culturally sustaining family math practices—paying special attention to nurturing and supporting the knowledge, skills, and mindsets of both math and family engagement practitioners themselves.

**Capacity-building and Partnerships**
Galvanize the contributions of partner-stakeholders to advance family math, with a focus on building the capacity of existing partners and expanding the range of family math partnerships, including those that strengthen and sustain the research base.

**Communications & Outreach**
Develop shared messages and outreach tools to communicate the power of math and its everyday usefulness, demystifying math and promoting the love of math.

**Policy & Advocacy**
Engage in the national policy conversation to advance equitable access to, and inclusion in, family math and help sharpen the policy community’s capacity to make math an equity priority.

**Research**
Support, encourage, and stimulate research that informs timely and actionable ideas for policy, practice, and professional development—and curate, communicate, and disseminate research that differentiates the benefits of family math practices and programs for different groups under different circumstances.

**Sustainability**
Build the capacity and stability of the Center to support over time a growing field of partners and to diversify the number and kinds of supporter of and investors in family math—both public and private.

#### Strategic Outcomes

A sustainable evidence-informed field with a national research agenda that provides understandable and usable knowledge for improving outreach, policy, school instruction, and family math engagement.

Practitioners, researchers, and school and community educators have knowledge, skills, and dispositions to enhance family math and support families, children, and youth.

Families have understanding, confidence, and agency to embrace and build their family math confidence and ability.

Children and Youth develop positive math identity and experience academic, economic, and civic success.
For More Information

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