

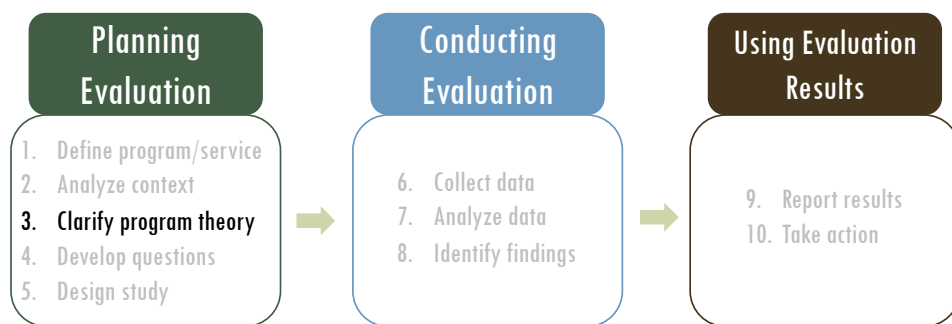
The Evaluation Process, Step 3



CLARIFY PROGRAM THEORY

1

The Evaluation Process



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Planning the Evaluation - Step 3: Clarify Program Theory

What research or evaluation has already been conducted?

What are the team's ideas about how the program works?

What are the components of the logic model?



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Planning the Evaluation - Step 3: Clarify Program Theory

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Program theory

Ideas about how and why a program or service will work to accomplish its goals

Research in LIS,
education, or other
fields

Experience about
what has worked
in the past

Conversation or
brainstorming
about what might
work

Hunches and
creative thinking



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Using program theory

Check the
rationale

Check the rationale behind the program/service

Identify
design gaps

Identify gaps and mis-alignments in program/service design



6

Using program theory

Focus the
evaluation

Focus the evaluation on key components of the program/service

Pinpoint
reasons

Pinpoint reasons why the program/service achieved (or didn't achieve) its goals



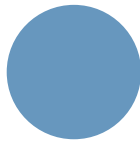
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Emerson Community Library: Literature review and ideas about program theory

The evaluation team conducts a literature review and discusses their ideas about how the math storytimes are envisioned to work (p. 25)



Review the team's ideas about how and why the program will work to accomplish its goals.

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Children's librarian finds articles that argue early math engagement will prepare young people for success in elementary school math—but no research on the topic.



Children's librarian has seen the influence of other library story times offered at early childhood education centers in helping teachers see the importance of early literacy.



Children's librarian finds articles that provide evidence that positive attitudes about math among preschool teachers is associated with positive attitudes about math among their students.



Assistant library director believes that exposing Head Start teachers to math concepts and activities can lead to them incorporating those ideas into their own teaching.

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Planning the Evaluation - Step 3: Clarify Program Theory

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Inputs

Resources used to deliver programs/services.

Outputs

Programs/services provided. Level of participation in those programs/services.

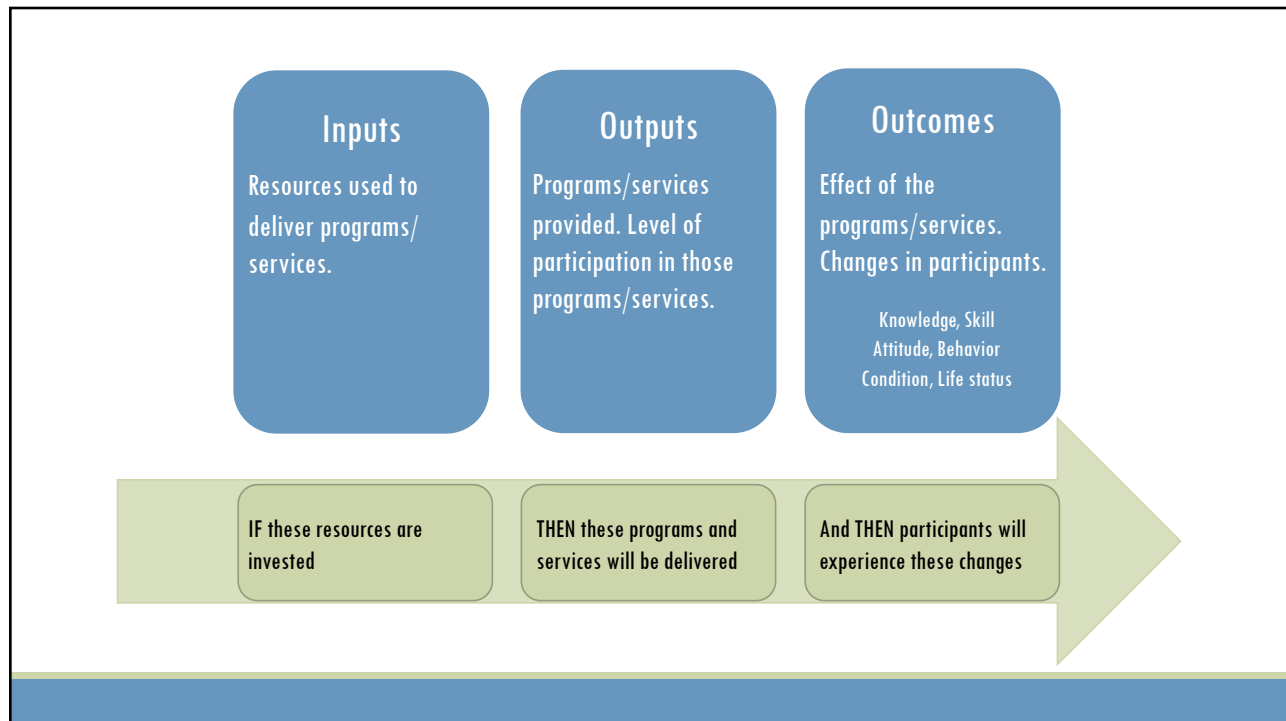
Outcomes

Effect of the programs/services.
Changes in participants.

Knowledge, Skill
Attitude, Behavior
Condition, Life status



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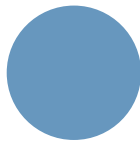
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Emerson Community Library: Developing a logic model

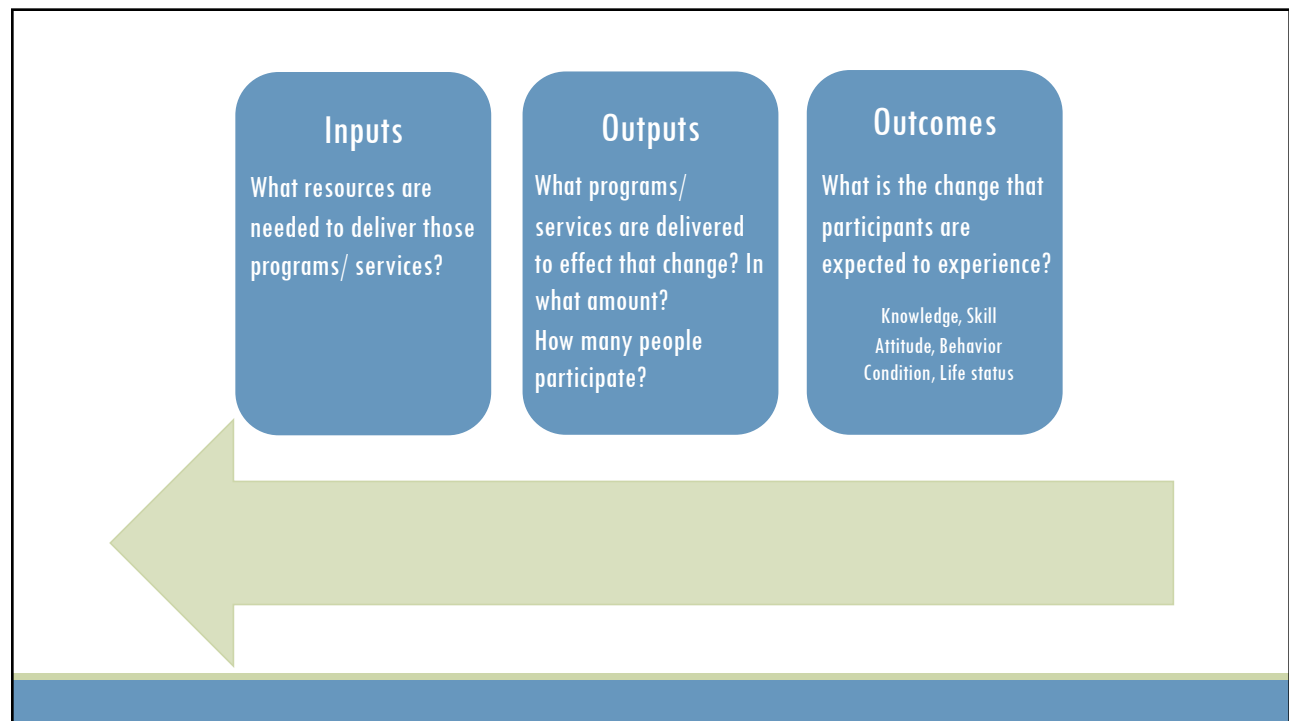
The evaluation team works on a logic model for the math storytimes. They make three attempts to diagram the program theory (pp. 26-28).



Review and discuss the team's three attempts at creating a logic model.



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Your Library: Clarify program theory, Part 1



Review your literature review findings



Discuss your ideas about how and why the program



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Your Library: Clarify program theory, Part 2



Develop a logic model to represent your program theory (p. 29)



Get feedback on your logic model (tomorrow)



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