



# IMPACT 2012

Through Extension programs across the nation, Family and Consumer Science Extension Educators provide a multitude of educational opportunities to meet the needs of diverse audiences.

## Improving Children's Lives - Early Childhood

### Childcare Training

Eight states reported outcomes for strong Extension childcare training programs. You will find similar programs in throughout the United States, though. Some states, like Georgia and Texas, require providers to complete a minimum number of credit hours of state-accepted training per year. Travel and expense deters providers from training. Texas A&M Extension, UGA Extension and others make training affordable and accessible. In these states, Extension FCS continues to be a leader in educating childcare providers and impacting the quality of care for their youngest citizens.

Investing in early childhood education produces an average 10% return on investment, reduces crime, promotes schooling and develops a skilled workforce.

*Better Kid Care*, written by **Pennsylvania** State Extension, is being used in many states including Iowa and Wisconsin. Almost 1,500 childcare providers participate annually in this training in **Wisconsin**. In **Iowa** 16,732 were reached this way in one year

*Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialists* in **West Virginia** reaches a diverse audience with topics such as ethics for childcare provide, and temperament types in children.

In **Delaware** training topics were especially timely for the 329 childcare workers involved. Topics included: Internet Safety, Building Relationships with Children who Challenge Us, Improving Transition Times, Making Secure Attachments, Every Child Counts, Managing Difficult Parents, Experiencing the Outdoors, and Creating Special Moments for Infants and Toddlers.

**Georgia** Extension FCS trained 401 childcare providers during twelve two-hour workshops valued at \$16,040. One workshop "No Excuse for Child Abuse", taught participants the term "immunity from liability" that only 1% knew before. As mandated reporters these child care providers have the potential impact of saving a child's life or preventing further injury, abuse or neglect.

**Nebraska's** Extension TLC (The Learning Child) Team provided 6,000 childcare professionals and families with at least two hours of training each in 2011. These people provide care for 19,000 young children. With one-third of the children under five are at risk of not thriving in school, UNL Extension is working to change that. Fun to Play Ready to Learn is the program they use. It features the latest brain development research and innovative strategies that support optimal development of young children.

Childcare in **Texas** is the 16th largest industry in the state. Extension there provided 25 childcare provider training conferences around the state to over 3,000 who care for approximately 40,000 children. One participant commented that "I have been taking care of children for 22 years. This was the best training I've been to since I started in 1987. Thanks again." **Texas** also offered online training. This convenient, affordable, flexible training method can be accessed at <http://childcare.tamu.edu>.

**Arizona** conducted *Brain Builders* training for childcare providers. Brain Builders is a statewide model program for integrating early brain development into early childcare education. The 16-hour curriculum covers prenatal, early brain, cognitive, physical, social-emotional, and adaptive development. In journals participants recorded techniques learned and how they had used them. One journal entry stated: "Thanks to your training, I know I have been wrong in the way I was teaching, I am a better teacher now. Our center will incorporate more experiments, messy play and more freedom to explore."

Raising kids, Eating right, Spending smart



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## Protecting Our Resources - Early Childhood

**Arizona** Due to the placement of a Childcare Health Consultant by Extension in three locations in the state -twenty-eight centers adopted major health and safety policies including indoor and outdoor playground safety. Family-style dining practices were modified in order to lessen the chance of spreading infectious diseases.

### Parent Education

Extension Professional Parent Educators make home visits in **Maine** to help parents enrich early development environments for their children. When parents enroll in this program prenatally there is the added benefit of improved pregnancy outcomes such as higher birth weight and full term births. This means babies are born with fewer health risks as well as the associated costs that come with pre-term births.

**Nebraska** FCS offers social-emotional development programs and resources to parents and childcare professionals as a focus area. Parents Forever is another Nebraska program that helps families who are divorcing or seeking custody modification help children adjust to these changes in an age appropriate manner.

**Missouri's** Focus on Kids training helps parents learn how to support their children through the divorce process and how to work together in co-parenting their children. As a result of the 257 programs presented to 1,852 parents, participants felt more confident about their ability to handle finances, to avoid playing the blame game with their spouse, and to build more positive relationships with their children.

**Arizona-First Smiles** –Provided preventative dental education to parents of children from birth to age five. Through First Smiles, parents learned how bacteria is transmitted, what contributes to dental decay, and when to begin dental checkups. Of course, daily tooth brushing after meals was stressed. Arizona-Extension FCS agents provided parent education at Child Care Resource Centers. As a result parents reported that they were more patient in helping their child build developmental skills because they learned what to expect and they had learned strategies for how to support their child.

**eXtension.org** continues to be a well utilized resource for all Extension educators on Nutrition, Health, and Fitness. Extension educators have contributed fact sheets, programs, and resources to this site covering child care; drinking water and human health; families, food and fitness; family care giving; food safety; parenting, and personal finance. New research-based resources are added continually for consumers and professionals.

**NEAFCS** is the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

**NEAFCS** provides professional development for Extension professionals who improve the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities and provide education in:

- Food preparation, food safety, and nutrition
- Financial management
- Healthy lifestyles
- Home and work environment and safety
- Relationships and parenting skills

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