

# Making a Difference

## 2015 Lake Country Child Care Conference Indepth Summary

**Lynette Babcock, Alinda Cox, Tanya Davis, Kathy Smith**

### Relevance

Sixty-seven percent of children under age 5 receive some form of child care on a regular basis from persons other than their parents (U.S. Census Bureau, 2013). The Texas Workforce Commission estimates that there are over 100,000 child care providers caring for more than 760,000 children under the age of 13 in licensed or regulated child care facilities in the state of Texas. Additionally, child care is one of the fastest growing industries in the state, generating approximately 145,000 jobs and \$2.3 billion in wages for Texans.

Researchers have found that quality matters when it comes to child care. Children who receive high-quality care develop better language, math, and social skills; exhibit fewer behavior problems; and tend to be better prepared for entrance into school.

Child care providers are required to have at least 20 hours of continuing education each year. Having a well-trained child care workforce is essential to providing the high quality child care that children need to reach their developmental potential. Evidence indicates that professional training is linked to higher quality care environments for children (Zaslow, Tout, Maxwell, & Clifford, 2004). Licensed and registered child care providers are mandated by the state to obtain training in a variety of area associated with the care of children.

There are 92 registered or licensed child care facilities located in Jack, Palo Pinto, Parker, Stephens, Wise and Young counties.

### Response

The multi-county cluster of Jack, Palo Pinto, Parker, Stephens, Wise and Young counties have provided the eastern area of District 3 for several years. The group of County Extension Agents met to plan a child care conference that was held on April 25, 2015.

- The cluster met several times to plan the Child Conference.
- The cluster collaborated with the Early Child Development Department of Weatherford College to co- host the conference.
- Agents communicated with the staff at Weatherford College on a regular basis to plan the event.

- The cluster worked with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Specialist Dr. Stephen Green and Dr. Jean Paulsel to plan the conference that focused on Inclusion.
- County Extension Agents were involved in helping to market the event in their respected counties.
- Agents assisted the specialists in conducted the pre- and post evaluation.

## Results

One April 25, 2015, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service conducted a 6-hour workshop in Weatherford for child care providers and directors on the best practices for including children with special needs in child care settings. Sixty-seven participants attended the training.

Item	% Yes	% No
Relevance of Information presented	95.5	4.5
New Information learned	95.5	4.5
Will use information or make changes as a result of this training	95.5	4.5
Would you recommend the training to others	95.5	4.5

- 90% were satisfied with the training
- 92% felt the information was accurate
- 90% were satisfied with the quality of the training

## Acknowledgements

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## Future Programming

This cluster will continue to offer Child Care Training to child care providers in this cluster. A conference will be offered in another part of the cluster.