

# Making a Difference

## **2016 All Babies and Children Child Care Conference**

### **Developed by:**

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### **Relevance:**

Over 60 percent of children from birth through age 6 (not yet in kindergarten) receive some form of child care on a regular basis from persons other than their parents. 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 the 16th largest industry in the state, generating over 145,000 jobs and \$2.3 billion in wages for Texans.

Findings from longitudinal research have clearly established the fact that quality does matter when it comes to child care. Children who receive high-quality care (e.g., warm sensitive caregiving, well-educated child care staff, low child-to-adult ratios, small group size) develop better language, math, and social skills; exhibit fewer behavior problems; and tend to be better prepared for entrance into school. Having a well-trained child care workforce is essential to providing the high quality child care that children need to develop physically, socially, emotionally, and cognitively.

### **Response:**

On June 11, 2016, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service conducted a child care provider training conference in Wharton, Texas for 75 child care providers and directors who provide care for 821 children enrolled in 15 child care centers or family day homes. Seventy-five participants completed a written evaluation of the conference (see Table 1 for participant characteristics). A total of 450 clock hours of training were provided to child care professionals seeking to meet state mandated training requirements established by the state of Texas.

## Results:

Table 1. Participant Characteristics (N = 75)

| Variable  | Percentage* | Mean |
|---|-------------|------|
| Age (in years)  |             | 43.9 |
| Number of Years in Child Care Profession                    |             | 12.0 |
| <b>Gender</b>   |             |      |
| Female  | 97.3        |      |
| Male  | 2.7         |      |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>  |             |      |
| African American  | 29.3        |      |
| Caucasian   | 40.0        |      |
| Hispanic/Latino   | 28.0        |      |
| Other   | 1.3         |      |
| <b>Education</b>  |             |      |
| Less than High School Diploma                               | 0.0         |      |
| High School Diploma   | 76.0        |      |
| Associates Degree   | 12.0        |      |
| College Graduate  | 10.7        |      |
| <b>Program Type</b>   |             |      |
| Home Day Care   | 8.0         |      |
| Child Care Center (other than Head Start)                   | 90.6        |      |
| Other (e.g., Montessori)                                    | 1.3         |      |
| <b>Program Licensed and/or Registered</b>                   |             |      |
| Yes   | 98.7        |      |
| No  | 0.0         |      |
| *Percentages do not always equal 100% due to missing cases. |             |      |

Participants were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with various aspects of the training (See Table 2 for participant responses).

Table 2. Participant Satisfaction with the Training (N = 75) \*

Not at all = 1   Slightly = 2   Somewhat = 3   Mostly = 4   Completely = 5

| Item   | Average |
|--|---------|
| Overall, how <u>satisfied</u> are you with this training?  | 4.5     |
| <b>How satisfied are you with the following aspects of the training?</b>                         |         |
| Information being <u>what you expected</u> to receive  | 4.6     |
| <u>Accuracy</u> of information   | 4.7     |
| Information being <u>easy</u> to understand  | 4.6     |
| <u>Completeness</u> of information being given   | 4.6     |
| <u>Helpfulness</u> of the information  | 4.7     |
| <u>Relevance</u> of the information presented to the work that I do in the child care profession | 4.6     |
| <u>Quality</u> of training materials   | 4.6     |
| Instructor's <u>knowledge level</u> of subject matter  | 4.7     |
| Instructor's <u>speaking/presentation abilities</u>  | 4.7     |
| Instructor's <u>organization/preparedness</u>  | 4.7     |
| Instructor's <u>response to questions</u>  | 4.7     |

Participants were asked to rate the quality of the conference compared to other child care trainings they have attended in the past by non-Extension organizations/agencies. Table 3 below contains the results.

**Table 3. Perceptions of Quality Compared to Other Non-Extension Trainings (N = 75)\***

| Item*   | Much Worse | Worse | Same  | Better | Much Better |
|---|------------|-------|-------|--------|-------------|
| Compared to other child care trainings you have attended (not provided by Extension), how would you rate the quality of today's training? | 0.0%       | 1.3%  | 14.7% | 29.3%  | 41.3%       |
| *Percentages do not equal 100% due to missing cases   |            |       |       |        |             |

In addition to the above items, participants were asked to indicate their agreement or disagreement with a variety of statements related to the training. Table 4 below contains the results.

**Table 4. Additional Survey Items (N = 75)\***

| Question  | % Yes | % No |
|---|-------|------|
| Did you learn new information from this training?                           | 98.7  | 1.3  |
| Do you plan to take any actions or make any changes based on this training? | 88.0  | 6.7  |
| Would you recommend this training to others?                                | 96.0  | 1.3  |
| *Percentages do not equal 100% due to missing cases                         |       |      |

As can be seen in the tables above, child care providers found the training to be very beneficial. The vast majority of participants were highly satisfied with the training, rating it a 4.5 on a 5-point scale. Moreover, **71%** of providers rated the training “Better” or “Much Better” compared to other trainings they have attended that were not conducted by Extension.

Report prepared by Dr. Stephen Green on December 9, 2016. For more information, please call (979) 845-6468.

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