



Kansas' most trusted child care resource.



**Child Care Quality Initiatives -  
Strengthening Families Project  
2013-2014 Executive Summary**

## FAMILY SURVEY FEEDBACK

163 Families completed a survey about changes in their knowledge, skills and behaviors before and after participating in parenting activities. Questions asked correlated with the five Protective Factors.

1. Knowledge of how to find the right kind of help within the community to meet their child's needs.

**Increased by 31%**

2. Communication with families with children the same age.

**Increased by 29%**

3. Knowledge of how to help their child express his/her feelings through words, music, artwork, and play.

**Increased by 28%**

4. Knowledge of how to communicate effectively with their child.

**Increased by 25%**

5. Understanding of what it means to be a good parent.

**Increased by 17%**

### OUR HISTORY

In 2007-2008, Child Care Aware® of Kansas received funding to carry out a project focused on reducing child abuse and neglect. The Child Care Quality Initiatives - Strengthening Families Project, funded by the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, is part of a Kansas plan that unifies efforts, coordinates resources, and strengthens and supports families. Child Care Aware® of Kansas contracts with the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs) to carry out this project.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Strengthening Families Project seeks to reduce the risk of abuse and neglect for Kansas children by alleviating some of the pressures that can drive a family into crisis. Outreach (technical assistance) and instructional support (professional development) are offered to both child care providers and families, with an emphasis on encouraging parents' involvement in their child's learning and development. The project has identified five Protective Factors helpful in establishing a stable and nurturing early environment: parental resilience; social connections; knowledge of parenting and child development; concrete support in times of need; and the social and emotional competence of children. Services in support of these goals are developed by Child Care Aware® of Kansas and delivered by CCR&R Infant/Toddler Specialists.

The year-long project engages child care providers (family child care and center-based programs) across the state in targeted activities. Activities include: technical assistance visits, professional development education, peer learning community meetings, parent engagement events (Parent Cafes), quality assessments and resource support. Child care providers acquire the tools necessary to support families and build the Protective Factors.

Information and results included in this report cover the period from July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014.

**583 Total Children Impacted\***

141: Birth - 17 months

174: 18 months - 35 months

134: 3-5 years

134: 5+ years

\*Number of children represents enrollment for family/group child care programs and center classrooms.

**230**

**PARENT CAFÉ  
EVENTS  
OFFERED**

Parent Cafés provide a meeting time for parents to focus on relationship building, sharing parenting strategies, and exchanging child development information.

**1,278**

**TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE  
VISITS  
COMPLETED**

**52 Family/Group Child Care  
Homes (79%)**

**14 Child Care Centers (21%)**

**66**

**PARTICIPANTS COMPLETED  
THE PROJECT**

### Professional Development Hours Completed by Participants

1-10 HOURS  
**15%**

11-20 HOURS  
**77%**

21+ HOURS  
**8%**

Participants received training and education in the following curricula - Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect (Zero to Three) and The Strengthening Families Approach. Training content focused on building successful relationships and embedding the Protective Factors among families, child care providers and the community.

**101**

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
EVENTS OFFERED**

### PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

*"My participation in the project has developed my knowledge and skills, aiding to my interaction and partnership with the families in my care. Being in a partnership with the families is sometimes a challenge, but the rewards far out way these challenges. Attaining the skills through the project better prepares me with the tools I need. I am able to share with my families varied techniques and services, and this benefits the family as a whole, the children in care, and myself as a caregiver."*

*"The training sessions were invaluable. I learned so much and my enthusiasm for my job increased so much. I also enjoyed the home visits. I was able to get personalized information that helped me become more professional."*

*"I really enjoyed the support sessions. It is encouraging to continue providing quality services when hearing ideas and getting feedback from peers in the same profession. I continue to use the ASQ which is a quality tool to determine areas which need more assistance in the children's development."*



## PARTICIPANT SUMMARY EVALUATION

Feedback was obtained from a total of 62 (94%) of the 66 Strengthening Families Project participants.

Participants were asked to rate seven items on a five-point scale. Since 94% of the participants returned a Participant Summary Evaluation, evaluators felt these findings can be generalized to the entire population of Strengthening Families Project participants who completed the project year.

## SUCCESS INDICATORS

- **The Evaluation Report suggests 10 (80%) of the 13 success indicators that assess the effectiveness of program implementation were substantially met.**
- **97% of quality improvement goals developed by participants were reported as completed.**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Evaluators indicated the following recommendations for the upcoming project year:

1. Identify ways to increase parent responses to the survey.
2. Utilize data to analyze areas of strengths and areas where improvements can be made.

## LAST YEAR'S REPORT

Two areas of opportunity were identified in the 2012-2013 Strengthening Families Evaluation Report:

1. Identify ways to increase parent responses to the survey.
2. Pre/post ratings should be used to explore the kind of services that might benefit participants in improving areas receiving low pre ratings and to maintain areas with high ratings.

Efforts to increase parent response to the survey were implemented, resulting in a 10% increase. Evaluators noted an increase in the percent of individuals demonstrating improvement or maintaining an overall average rating of 5 or above, based on comparisons from 2012-2013. Coaching focused on low pre-observation areas by assisting participants in developing quality improvement goals.

### ABOUT THIS REPORT

Dr. Larry Gwaltney and Dr. Joyce Reger, independent evaluators and Research Associates with Allied Educational Research and Development Services, Wichita, KS, completed the Child Care Quality Initiatives - Strengthening Families 2013-2014 Evaluation.



[www.ks.childcareaware.org](http://www.ks.childcareaware.org)

Between **89% - 95%** of all participants either **agreed** or **strongly agreed** participation enhanced their knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviors and/or practices related to providing quality child care services for children and/or parents (*information from the Participant Summary Evaluation*).

Participants were asked on the Participant Summary Evaluation whether the services provided enhanced their knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviors and/or practices related to providing quality child care services for children and/or parents.

1. The process of developing a Quality Improvement Plan was helpful:

**95% Agree or Strongly Agree**

2. The information and training received during PCAN, ASQ and Strengthening Families Protective Factors training sessions was informative:

**95% Agree or Strongly Agree**

3. The information received from the Infant/Toddler Specialist related to planning and conducting a Parent Café was valuable:

**89% Agree or Strongly Agree**

4. Overall training and support provided by the Infant/Toddler Specialist was relevant:

**92% Agree or Strongly Agree**

