



**Child Care Quality Initiatives -
Strengthening Families Project
2017 - 2018 Executive Summary**

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. In FY 2017, the Strengthening Families Program received a 14% budget reduction, resulting in fewer child care programs, children and families served.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Strengthening Families Project seeks to reduce the risk factors associated with 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 Early Care & Education (ECE) 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, 2017 - June 30, 2018.

314* TOTAL CHILDREN IMPACTED
*Number of children represents enrollment for family/group child care programs and center classrooms.

0-5 YEARS 254

5+ YEARS 60



40
Participants completed the project, and 28 (70%) offered subsidized care

34 Family/Group Child Care Homes (79%)

6 Child Care Centers (21%)

PARENT CAFÉ EVENTS

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

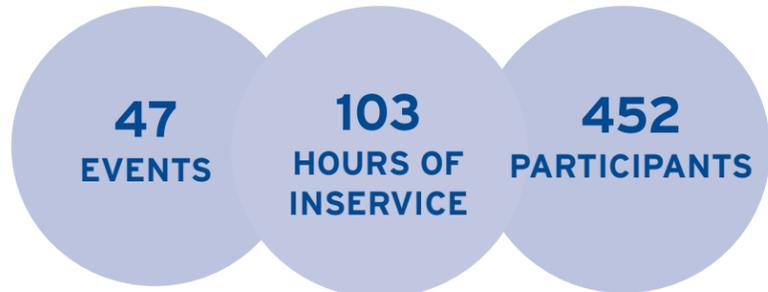
53
PARENT CAFES ATTENDED BY 356 ADULTS AND 332 CHILDREN

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Participants had access to training content centered on:

- Using the foundational framework and strategies from CSEFEL: Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect (Zero-Three)
- Embedding the Protective Factors with families, child care providers and the community
- Understanding brain development and the impact of trauma/stress
- Improving adult-child interaction

Professional Development by the Numbers



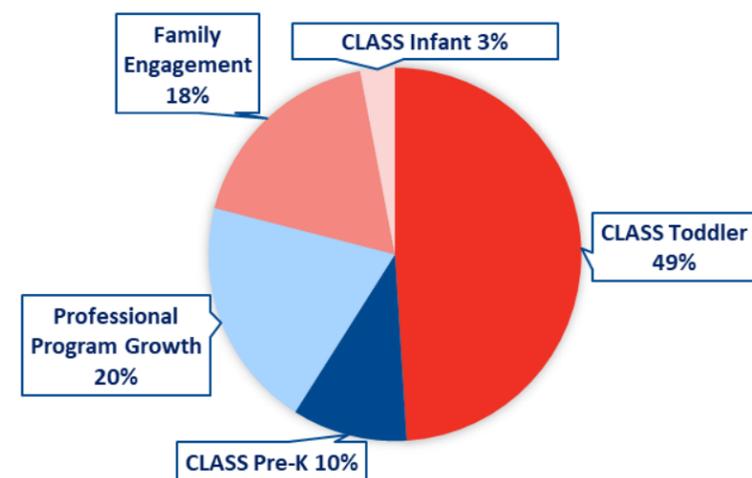
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA)

804
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONSULTATIONS COMPLETED

20 counties impacted

142 infants and toddlers screened using ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2

TA FOCUS AREA



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

"I enjoy hearing what other providers do for family involvement. It's nice sitting down with other peers for ideas."

"I gained confidence in communicating with my parents and we have a better open relationship now. I am more intentional in planning my activities too."

"The ASQ screening part of this program was able to provide a family in my care the support they needed and also provided the child the services he needed in order to help him grow and develop."

"My participation in this project has reinforced my efforts to keep an open line of communication with the parents of the children in my daycare. I now take a more active role in reaching out to the parents. I have also improved my communication skills with the children in my care."

"I loved the parent café experience - the educational component as well as the unique and different experience for my kids and the hands-on opportunities."

"I feel like I am much more prepared if a parent or family comes to me needing help. If it's something I can direct them to within the community, I have a resource book ready with information."



90% of all participants either **agreed or strongly agreed** that 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*).

SUCCESS INDICATORS

- **97% of quality improvement goals developed by participants were reported as completed or in progress.**

CLASS®

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®) is an observation instrument used to assess the quality of teacher-child interactions. Participants receive a baseline and follow-up assessment.

87% of toddler environments met high quality standards in all domains* in 2017

96% of toddler environments met high quality standards in all domains* in 2018

* **Toddler environments were assessed using the CLASS observational tool** (The Classroom Assessment Scoring System) and measured the domains of Emotional and Behavioral Support and Engaged Support for Learning. The CLASS provides a broad perspective on the educational setting while accounting for developmentally appropriate practices.

WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING...

As a result of attending a Parent Café:

- "The parent café was very insightful and a great experience on parent perspectives and interactions with your child"
- "The parent café was so much fun because I got to watch my child and his teacher interact"
- "I loved the parent café experience - the educational component as well as the unique and different experience for my kids and the hands-on opportunities"
- "The parent café was informative and enjoyable for the entire family. We loved the activities the children did"

PARTICIPANT SUMMARY EVALUATION

Feedback was obtained from a total of 40 (100%) of the Strengthening Families Project participants. 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 parents.

1. The support provided by the Specialist regarding how to talk with/involve parents in the use of Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3 or ASQ-SE) to screen, and, if necessary, refer children with potential delays for additional assessment or service

88% Agreed or Strongly Agreed

2. The information and support received from the Specialist related to planning and conducting a Parent Café

90% Agreed or Strongly Agreed

3. The overall support provided by the Specialist related to the use of the CLASS Assessment

90% Agreed or Strongly Agreed



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