



**Child Care Quality Initiatives -
Strengthening Families Project
2014-2015 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.

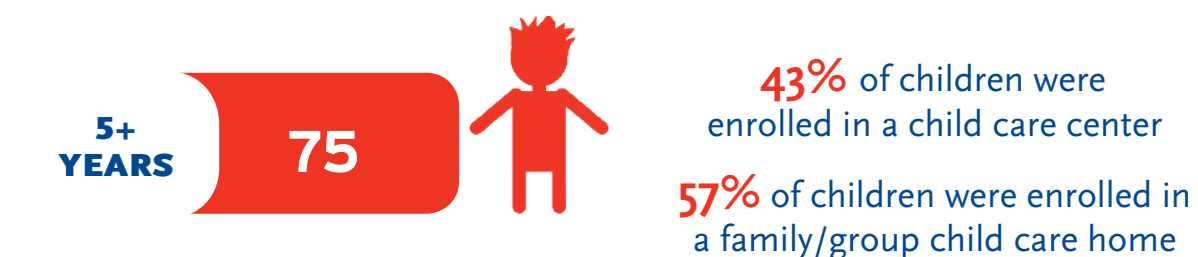
PROJECT OVERVIEW

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, 2014 - June 30, 2015.

538* TOTAL CHILDREN IMPACTED

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



38 Family/Group Child Care Homes (60%)

25 Child Care Centers (40%)



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.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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.

Professional Development Hours Completed by Participants



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

"The Strengthening Families project helped me talk to parents about developmental issues both academic and social/emotional. The opportunities that the program provided me in training have been invaluable."

"I liked the Ages and Stages questionnaire. The parents really seemed to appreciate the insight to their children's development."

"Strengthening Families helped my teacher develop confidence in discussing children's development as well as introducing parenting ideas."

"The knowledge from the PCAN and protective factors was awesome. I thought I knew a lot about behaviors, modeling and such but I was wrong. My skills and knowledge have been refurbished and I am more positive and confident with my families and children."

"I was scared of the parent cafes but seeing my families enjoy them was the best."



FAMILY SURVEY FEEDBACK

131 Families completed a survey about the 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 36%

2. Communication with families with children the same age.

Increased by 31%

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

Increased by 42%

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

Increased by 35%

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

Increased by 20%

PARTICIPANT SUMMARY EVALUATION

Feedback was obtained from a total of 55 (87%) of the 63 Strengthening Families Project participants.

Participants were asked to rate seven items on a five-point scale. Since 87% of the participants completed 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.

Between **91% - 98%** 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*).

SUCCESS INDICATORS

- The Evaluation Report suggests **14 (88%)** of the **16** success indicators that assess the effectiveness of program implementation were substantially met.
- **87%** 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 Family Feedback Survey.
2. Help parents better appreciate the purpose and value of using the ASQ-3 (Ages and Stages Questionnaire) and the ASQ-SE (Ages and Stages Questionnaire Social-Emotional) assessments.

LAST YEAR'S REPORT

Two areas of opportunity were identified in the 2013-2014 Strengthening Families Evaluation Report:

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.

The number of success indicators completed increased by 8% this year. Although additional efforts were put in place to increase parent responses, the number of surveys completed decreased by 3% compared to last year.

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 2014-2015 Evaluation.



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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:
98% Agree or Strongly Agree
2. The information and training received during PCAN, ASQ and Strengthening Families Protective Factors training sessions was informative:
96% Agree or Strongly Agree
3. The information received from the Infant/Toddler Specialist related to planning and conducting a Parent Café was valuable:
98% Agree or Strongly Agree
4. Overall training and support provided by the Infant/Toddler Specialist was relevant:
98% Agree or Strongly Agree