

2015
IMPACT REPORT



EXTENSION

NEBRASKA STATEWIDE IMPACT REPORT “THE LEARNING CHILD ACTION TEAM”

Investing in Young Children Benefits All

The Learning Child Action Team (TLC) is committed to increasing the quality and quantity of early educational experiences for our youngest Nebraska community members. When you invest in the quality of care and education young children receive, you are investing in the healthy growth, sustainability and future of the community. TLC team has invested six years in developing and disseminating research based, innovative, and easily accessible resources and programming to early childhood professionals and families of children birth-age 8. The following represents a summary of impact for 2015:

Improving the quality of early care and education

- More than **1,700** early childhood professionals received educational credits and **2,800** parents engaged in programming and training through Nebraska-Extension. Participants received between **2-36 hours** of professional development or parent education.
- **94%** of participants indicated that as a result of TLC programming, they now have the skills and knowledge to engage young children in positive, responsive and age appropriate interactions that support children’s healthy growth, learning and development.
- As a result of TLC programming and resources, approximately **30,500 children** in Nebraska benefit from early childhood professionals and parents who have the essential skills and knowledge to support the healthy growth and development of the children in their care.

Enhancing quality nationally and internationally

- By participating in the Child Care and Youth Training and Technical Assistance Project (CYTTAP), TLC team members are helping to **increase the access to quality** early educational experiences of more than **420,000** military and civilian children and families in Nebraska and in 21 states!
- TLC team members have engaged in international initiatives in **Brazil, China, Italy, Ireland, Kenya and Scotland** to create reciprocal exchanges with professionals in improving quality early childhood education for young children in Nebraska, the U.S. and abroad.

PUBLIC VALUE

Smart investments in early childhood yield long-term gains. When you support The Learning Child Team’s programming, participating families and early childhood professionals implement essential skills and strategies that lead to a more safe, healthy, thriving environment for the child(ren) in their care. This benefits the vitality, success and future well-being of the community through a stronger workforce and children ready and prepared for school and life.



In 2015, TLC team had a **71%** increase in our social media followers with more than **84,000** overall impressions of tweets, posts and pins that provided research based information to families and professionals who care for young children.

Check out the following additional online and electronic resources and lessons provided by TLC!

- ◇ child.unl.edu: TLC website, blog, educational video library and resources
- ◇ childpd.unl.edu: TLC Online Professional Development Portal
- ◇ elo.unl.edu: School age professionals’ resource website
- ◇ U R Parent App (Birth-Age 5)
- ◇ Text4teachers
- ◇ Co Parenting for Successful Kids Online

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SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

When asked to identify specific next steps in applying what they learned during TLC programming, participants responded....

“Getting more on their level and applying more visual aids in class to provide a better learning environment”

“I will model using my vocabulary to express my emotions and encourage my children to express their emotions”



CO PARENTING & GUARDIANSHIP

“I will talk about my child’s mother in a more positive way and also I will talk to my daughter more about her feelings and how we can handle those feelings when she is upset or sad”



EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

“Taking children on nature walks to explore and collect nature items”

“Using electronic media appropriately with our kids. Making sure apps are simple and age appropriate”

More than **2,700** Nebraska children now have parents and/or early childhood professionals with strategies on ways to support children’s healthy social and emotional development.

Participants reported **significant** change ($p < .01$) between retrospective pre-and post training responses on **ALL** evaluation survey items including:

Improved knowledge in:

- Strategies to promote children’s social and emotional development
- The importance of building positive relationships with children
- Strategies that can be used to build positive relationships with children
- Strategies that can be used to build social skills in young children

As a result of TLC programming, **94%** of participants plan to implement strategies for preventing challenging behaviors and promoting children’s social and emotional development.

58% of the more than 3,500 children whose parents are undergoing a separation or divorce in Nebraska and attended our online or onsite Co-Parenting For Successful Kids Program (CPFSK) are **under the age of 8**.

In 2015 more than **1,800** parents participated in CPFSK. The program has expanded to Oklahoma with 274 parents participating. In 2016 Indiana will implement the CPFSK onsite and on-line courses.

802 adults attended TLC team’s court-mandated educational program Guardianship. More than **8,900** participants have benefited since the mandated program started in 2005.

The Guardianship program is helping to keep Nebraska children and families together. The following great grandparent of a 3-month old child reflects on the need for guardianship training:

“I need to make sure I have a person designated to care for my Minor Ward in the event something happens to me”

More than **3,100** children and youth engaged in Nebraska Extension programming through Clover Kid activities and also programming that explored topics such as CPR/First Aid, Nature Education, and Robotics.

Adult participants attended TLC team’s early care and education programming focused on child developmental topics such as health and nutrition, cultural diversity, technology and learning, science and nature education, creative arts and early literacy.

Post training evaluation results suggest on average **89%** of adult participants agree that as a result of TLC programming they will plan to do the following to support children’s early care and education:

- Engage in positive and age appropriate interactions that meet the needs of the child(ren) in their care.
- Design responsive and affirming environments for the child(ren) in their care.
- Create an environment that enhances children’s healthy growth and development.

Visit
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