The Learning Child Impact Report

Enhancing & Improving Educational Quality

The Learning Child Team (TLC) is committed to enhancing the capacity of Nebraska’s communities in supporting the healthy growth, development and success of young children. TLC team provides research based, responsive, innovative, trusted and easily accessible resources and programming to early childhood professionals and families of children birth- age 8. The following represents a summary of the overall impact of 2014:

Improving educational quality and early care experiences:

- 96% of participants indicated they feel more confident that the interactions with the children in their care will be more responsive, positive and appropriate to children’s needs and ages.

- As a result of TLC programming and resources, approximately 24,000 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 professional knowledge and skills:

- More than 1,500 early childhood professionals received educational credits and 2,900 parents engaged in programming and training through Nebraska Extension.

- 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 100,000 military and civilian children and families in Nebraska and 21 other states.

In 2014, we greatly enhanced our online, multi-media and social media efforts in order to increase the on-demand access to research based, quality early education resources. As a result, we have reached more than 4,000 Nebraska families, early childhood, and school age professionals:

- child.unl.edu: TLC website, blog, educational video library
- elo.unl.edu: School age professionals’ resource website
- TLC Online Professional Development Portal
- U R Parent App (Birth-Age 5)
- Text4teachers
- Co-Parenting for Successful Kids Online
- Little Kids Cook! Interactive Community Lesson

Public Value

Smart investments in early childhood yield long-term gains. When you support The Learning Child Team 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.

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Participants attending TLC team’s early care and education programming focused on child developmental topics such as approaches to learning, science and math education, creative arts and cultural diversity. 92% of these participants reported they would implement a lot or a great deal of what they learned during the training/workshop in their work with young children.

Post training evaluation results suggest 96% or more of 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.

867 adults attended TLC team’s court-mandated educational program Guardianship. More than 8,000 have benefited since the mandated program started in 2005.

56% of the 3,065 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.

Over 2,000 parents participated in CPFSK in 2014.

After 6-18 months of attending the online or face to face CPFSK program, 92% of participants who completed follow up surveys indicated they are still helping their child(ren) adjust to the divorce or custody modification based on their ages and stages.

Visit child.unl.edu for the individual impact summary reports for guardianship and Co-Parenting for Successful Kids.

More than 4,900 Nebraska children now have parents and/or early childhood professionals with strategies on ways to support children’s healthy social and emotional development.

Post Participants reported significant change (p<.01) between retrospective pre-and post training response 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, 96% of participants plan to implement strategies for preventing challenging behaviors and promoting children’s social and emotional development.