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.

Follow The Learning Child Team

In 2015, TLC 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
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 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"
- "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.

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 [extension.unl.edu](http://extension.unl.edu) for more information.