

Supporting Families Together Association: 2009 Grow in Quality Project

Summary of Spring 2009 Quality Initiative work:

Technical Advisors have worked this quarter connecting with Resource and Referral Agencies to gather names of potential programs for this round of Grow in Quality work. Actions that have occurred:

- contacting potential programs
- explaining the project
- setting up initial visits for the first assessment

A total of 25 programs have been recruited: 6 Family Child Care Centers and 19 Group Child Care Centers. Twenty of the first Twenty-five assessments have been completed with visits scheduled for the remaining assessments. Technical Advisors are now working on consulting visits and developing Action Plans for programs to make improvements.

Program Demographics:

Six family child care programs have been recruited

- 3 in Racine County
- 1 in Waukesha County (carry over)
- 2 in Washington County

Nineteen group child care programs have been recruited

- 3 in Clark County
- 2 in Portage County
- 8 in Rock County
- 6 in Wood County

Providing Technical Support:

Central Region:

- On-site Technical Assistance Provided: 26 hours
- Off-site Technical Assistance/Consultation Provided:
 - Telephone – 12 contacts
 - Email – 14 contacts
 - Mail – 4 contacts
 - Referrals – 8 contacts
 - Additional Networking with other Participants – 4 contacts

South Central Region:

- On-site Technical Assistance Provided: 22 hours
- Off-site Technical Assistance/Consultation Provided:
 - Telephone – 10 contacts
 - Email – 14 contacts
 - Mail – 4 contacts

Southeastern Region:

- On-site technical assistance provided: 12.25 hours
- Off-site Technical Assistance/Consultation Provided:
 - Telephone – 23 contacts
 - Email – 3 contacts
 - Mail – 5 contacts

Northern Region:

- On-site technical assistance provided: 9.5 hours
- Off-site Technical Assistance/Consultation Provided:
 - Telephone – 6 contacts
 - Email – 5 contacts
 - Mail – 1 contact

Information and Resources

Technical Advisors provided the following information and resources to Grow in Quality program participants:

Central Region:

- Handouts that have been shared include:
 - Messages in the Environment
 - List of Suggested Materials
 - 5 Signs of an Organized Pre-School
 - Heim Ginott
 - Grow in Quality Assessment Tool
 - The Teaching Cycle
 - Employment Packet
 - Interactions from Assessment tool
 - Action plans
 - Interactions
 - Child Care Information Exchange
 - Environment Scrapbook!
 - Creative Curriculum Lesson Plan
 - Toddler classroom re-design wish list
 - How Centers Budget for Quality
 - Creative Curriculum Supporting Materials
 - How Centers Spend Money on Quality
 - Prime Times, Scrapbook
 - List of SFTA Trainings

South Central Region:

- Sample budget
- Salary scales
- Survey of staff expertise
- Sample Family Surveys
- Sample staff evaluations
- TEACH info
- WCCAA info
- Assessment Tool
- Action Plans
- Information on Focused Portfolios

Southeastern Region:

- Classroom Display
- What do the children do during free time?

- Sample Salary schedule
- Registry information
- SBS Plan

Northern Region:

- Suggested items for a preschool classroom
- Sample Salary schedule
- Portfolio checklist
- Sample parent survey – annual
- Medications

On-going Efforts/Action Plans:

- Introduction of the Conscious Discipline by Becky Bailey
- New family orientation will be reviewed and enhanced
- Resources for toddler programming will be shared
- Salary scale samples, Description of shared leadership and participatory management from the Center for the Child Care Workforce
- Understanding the assessment tool and the action planning for as a team
- Business practices including budgeting and financial management. Record keeping systems that are simple yet concise.
- Toddler interactions
- Implementation of key components of the Creative Curriculum
- Policy review including personnel policies
- Developing salary scales
- Creation of staff evaluations based on samples given
- Several programs are also working on setting staff development plans with current staff.
- Tracking of monthly expenses and income
- Access to and understanding new licensing regulations
- Science, math, writing areas
- Developmentally Appropriate Practice
- Business practice
- Family practices
- Staff practices
- Toddler issues

Anecdotal Comments on Site Visits:

- Directors and staff have been very welcoming and are proud to share their classrooms.
- Directors are honest in stating what they do not have yet developed in the Professional Practices section of the Assessment and appear to be quite willing to work on needed areas.
- Enrollment is a concern, we will brainstorm strategies to market programming for an August 1st advertizing campaign.