



WISCONSIN CHILD CARE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Summary of Technical Assistance

As the Wisconsin Child Care Improvement Project winds up our work on the Grow in Quality Project, we would like to summarize the experiences and successes that we had as we collaborated with the 68 programs over the past year. WCCIP found that directors are busy people---we actually already knew this---and we want to thank you for your time and efforts on this project. The work that was done shows that many Wisconsin Early Childhood Professionals care about children and the effects that quality early childhood programming can have on them.

WCCIP Technical Advisors considered two questions during our time spent with programs:

- What contributed to program growth?
- What positive changes were made?

Following is our summary on these considerations.

What contributed to program growth?

- Commitment to quality
- Leadership skills of the Director
- Relationship building among staff, families, and children
- Stability in the program (in both staff and director retention)
- Time spent by the Director in direct support/supervision of staff and on Administrative duties
- Comprehensive staff program evaluation system
- Support for continuing education
- Shared decision-making or participatory management systems within a program

What positive changes were made?

- Developmentally appropriate curricula adopted
- Curriculum aligned with Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards
- Incorporation of The Teaching Cycle, including assessing, planning and implementation of activities
- Classrooms redesigned
- Developmentally appropriate materials added to classrooms
- Developmentally appropriate assessment tools for children utilized
- Systems for evaluating staff established
- Salary scales for staff created
- Professional development plans for staff established
- Family surveys conducted
- Family resource areas developed
- Additional family/social events planned
- Staff skills strengthened through training opportunities offered by WCCIP on areas relevant to the assessment tool
- Directors Network group, initially facilitated by WCCIP, continues
- Directors became members of a professional organization, extending network of contacts, support and resources

Thank you, again, for opening up your programs to us. We enjoyed getting to know each of you and value what we gained from working with you and your staff.

WCCIP Staff: Barb Evensen, Sandy Garski, Peggy McMahon, Audrey Schanning, Joann Wieland