

Family Home Providers Change in Observations as a Result of Professional Development Classes

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Background

- The rising high cost of child care at childcare centers in the US lead families toward family home child care centers for child care.
- Family home providers do not have educational/training requirements beyond high school
- Limited training courses for development for providers

Methodology

- Seventeen Hispanic family home providers participated in a year-long professional development program offered by the United Way Bright Beginning program.
 - Providers were given 4 group trainings and monthly follow-up coaching by a professional early childhood consultant equaling 20 hours.
 - Focus of training was on child development knowledge and assessing children to promote growth in children.
- Providers were asked to rate their change in practice and self-report their greatest change in practice and skill as a result of the professional development

Results

- All seventeen providers reported they learned how to observe children in their care and what and how to document their growth.
- Providers rated their view of a change in practice as a 4.5 out of 6
- All providers reported practicing observation skills as a result of their training.

Conclusions

- Important to measure participant change in knowledge and practice which ultimately benefits children.
- Leading to well-developed family home child care centers.
- This research can contribute to the early childhood field by helping trainers consider training family homes and helping trainers see that providers are able to expand their skills to promote growth in children.

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