

Promoting Early Education Quality Program Supports Jobs and Household Income

ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF EXTENSION EDUCATION

QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF CHILD CARE

- The demand for quality child care continues to rise as children are spending more time in care outside the family. An estimated 13 million children under the age of 6 receive some form of child care on a regular basis from individuals other than their parents.
- Evidence indicates that professional training and continuing education on the part of child care providers correlate with higher-quality care environments for children.

AGRILIFE EXTENSION'S RESPONSE

- The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service organizes and conducts training opportunities for current and prospective child care providers through the Promoting Early Education Quality Program via regional conferences, county workshops, and online courses that meet professional development standards established by the Texas Health and Human Services Child Care Regulation.
- The purpose of the training is to enhance the knowledge and skills of providers and directors with regard to the care and education of children, as well as business management.
- Participants learn about a variety of topics, including child development, guidance and discipline, early childhood literacy, nutrition, and health and safety issues.
- In 2024, 74,987 child care center teachers and administrators in Texas enrolled and completed more than 491,000 courses. Additionally, 1,015 teachers and administrators completed the training in-person. In total, just over 76,000 teachers and administrators, who care for more than 710,000 children, completed the AgriLife Extension child care training.

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ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- By providing high-quality education and training to the state's early childhood education workforce, the AgriLife Extension child care trainings support these child care provider businesses that have annual revenue of \$6.2 billion. The trainings also support 76,000 jobs with an annual wage base of \$2.75 billion.
- Considering that child care allows an additional parent to work outside the home, the AgriLife Extension child care trainings indirectly support an estimated 383,600 jobs with an annual wage base of \$22.6 billion.
- The full impact of the AgriLife Extension's child care training is expected to be higher when data from online trainings, self-study courses, and county workshops becomes available.