



Family and Consumer Sciences

BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY



• THE CHALLENGE •

High-quality early child care and education benefits children, parents, and people throughout Ohio.

In fact, a November 2004 economic impact study found that the early care and education industry in Ohio provides almost 57,000 jobs—more than all Ohio colleges and universities—and generates \$1.95 billion annually. The industry has the capacity to serve approximately 527,000 children at any one time—40 percent of all children with all parents in the labor force in Ohio. Research indicates that parents whose children have stable, high-quality early care and education have higher employee retention, satisfaction, and productivity. Early care and education also benefits children. Extensive longitudinal research indicates that high-quality early care and education programs improve children's cognitive, language, and social development, thus improving their readiness for school; improve the likelihood that a child will, as an adult, be steadily employed, educated, and financially self-sufficient; and decrease the likelihood of later juvenile delinquency, adult incarceration, and welfare participation.

One of the best predictors of high quality is that staff and caregivers have received training and education in child development. Professionals who are well trained in child development tend to be more warm and responsive toward children and provide them with more stimulating learning environments.





For more information or to partner with us on OSU Extension's Healthy Relationships programming, please contact your county Extension Educator in Family and Consumer Sciences, or our state specialist in this area:

Kathy Reschke, Extension State Specialist
reschke.1@osu.edu, 614-247-6631



• OSU EXTENSION'S RESPONSE •

Our Family and Consumer Sciences programs are geared to work with child care professionals:

- In 2004, nearly 2,000 early care and education professionals attended training programs taught by OSU Extension educators in 25 Ohio counties. Many of these programs are geared to help family child care providers achieve and maintain certification by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.
- To expand on the above work, OSU Extension's Family and Consumer Sciences program has developed an Early Child Development and Care (ECDC) work group, which is developing strategies to improve the quality of early care and education in Ohio through providing comprehensive, affordable, practical, research-based educational programs promoting principles of early child development and learning, effective guidance and discipline, and appropriate and stimulating environments for young children.

• BENEFITS FOR OHIOANS •

Through high-quality training and education, we intend to improve early care and education professionals' awareness, knowledge, and skills in early development, early learning, behavior management, appropriate environments, healthy adult-child relationships, and effective parent-professional relationships. As a result:

- Early care and education professionals will improve the quality of their care and education programs.
- Incidences of child abuse and neglect in these programs will decrease.
- Children attending these programs will be more ready for kindergarten.
- Parents and professionals will form effective partnerships through which children can thrive.

OSU Extension embraces human diversity and is committed to ensuring that all educational programs conducted by Ohio State University Extension are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, gender identity or expression, disability, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or veteran status.

Keith L. Smith, Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Director, OSU Extension

TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868



Family and Consumer Sciences
BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY