

## **Improving the Quality of Childcare in Delaware**

### **Issue:**

To maintain their licensing, childcare providers are required by the state to attend at least 30 hours of in-service training yearly. In-service training opportunities are scarce and tend to be expensive -- some up to \$100 per hour. Delaware Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) educators were asked by childcare providers to develop training programs focusing on critical issues in childcare.

### **What has been done?**

Extension provides up-to-date, affordable training for childcare providers by offering monthly programs for family- and center-based childcare providers in each county. To best utilize resources, satellite downlink programs from Pennsylvania State University's Cooperative Extension are the centerpiece of the series. To customize the information to Delaware, additional programs were developed and conducted by the county Extension educators. Workshop topics include: Behavior is Contagious, Car Seat Safety, Nutrition, Let's Talk Discipline, Food Safety, Ups & Downs of Outdoor Play, How to Work with Problem Parents, and Money on the Bookshelf..

### **Impact**

In New Castle County 22 programs were offered, reaching a total of 225 participants; in Kent County, a series of 11 classes was offered in 7 different sessions throughout the year. 190 childcare providers completed the series. In Sussex County, a series of 11 classes reached 268 providers. Post-workshop evaluations demonstrated that these training programs had a measurable effect on the quality of childcare provided by participants.

### **Funding**

Fee

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