

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. More than 60% of children from birth through age 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 regional conferences, county workshops, and online courses that meet professional development standards established by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Child Care Licensing.
- 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 2017, AgriLife Extension and collaborators conducted 25 Child Care Conferences in Texas for 1,934 providers, who care for more than 35,078 children at 486 child care businesses. In addition, child care providers and directors from across the United States completed more than 441,000 online training sessions in 2017.

Economic Impacts

- By providing high-quality education and training to the state's child care industry, AgriLife Extension's Child Care Conferences directly support 486 child care businesses, with estimated annual revenues of \$270 million. The conferences also support 1,934 jobs, with an annual wage base of \$41.7 million.
- Considering that child care allows an additional parent to work outside the home, the Child Care Conferences indirectly support an estimated 18,951 jobs, with an annual wage base of \$483 million.
- The full impact of AgriLife Extension's child care training is expected to be higher when data from online trainings, self-study courses, and county workshops becomes available.

