

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 12.5 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 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 2019, AgriLife Extension and collaborators conducted 27 Child Care Conferences in Texas for 1,710 providers, who care for more than 32,080 children at 447 child care businesses. In addition, child care providers and directors from across the United States completed 550,000 online training sessions in 2019.

Economic Impacts

- By providing high-quality education and training to the state's child care industry, AgriLife Extension's Child Care Conferences directly support 447 child care businesses, with estimated annual revenues of \$289 million. The conferences also support 1,710 jobs, with an annual wage base of \$39.5 million.
- Considering that child care allows an additional parent to work outside the home, the Child Care Conferences indirectly support an estimated 17,331 jobs, with an annual wage base of \$442 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.

