

Childcare and Youth Training & Technical Assistance Project (CYTTAP) & Military Childcare Liaison Initiative (MCCLI)

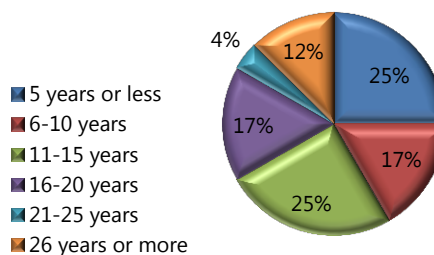


FACE-TO-FACE TRAININGS: CYTTAP sponsored 27 training events in Texas between January 2012 and January 2013.

- Thirteen PCAN trainers delivered sixteen *Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect (PCAN)* workshops, reaching 668 child care providers.
- One trainer delivered one *I am Moving, I am Learning (IMLI)* workshop to 21 child care providers.
- One trainer delivered two *Family Child Care: Getting Started* workshops to 13 child care providers.
- One trainer delivered one *Tools of the Trade II Train the Trainer* training to 6 professionals.
- One trainer delivered seven face-to-face *Better Kid Care (BKC)* trainings to child care providers. Three *BKC* modules were delivered: "Avoid Behavior Problems – Teach Self-Control," "Building Relationships with Children and Youth Who Challenge Us," and "Parents: Friends or Foes." The *BKC* trainings were attended by 105 individuals; 26 training survey responses were received and are summarized in this report.

Better Kid Care Participants: All 26 participants were women. They on average had approximately 14 years of experience working with children and families, and had been working in their current positions on average for about 8.5 years. There was much variation in the number of children their child care center serves in a typical year, ranging from 0-40 with a median number of 12 children cared for. The number of military-connected children their child care center serves in a typical year ranges from 0-33, with a median number of 7.

Total # of years employed in a setting working with children and families



Most *BKC* participants reported learning a great deal during the training that applies to their work (96.2%) and felt that what they learned can be used in their childcare settings (96.2%). Most of the providers were satisfied or very satisfied with the program & instructors.

Quality of <i>BKC</i> Trainings	Very little	Little	Much	Very much
How much did you learn today that applies to your work in childcare settings?	0%	3.8%	57.7%	38.5%
How much of what you learned will you be able to use in your childcare setting?	0%	3.8%	57.7%	38.5%
	Very unsatisfied	Not satisfied	Satisfied	Very satisfied
How satisfied were you with this program?	0%	0%	53.8%	46.2%
How satisfied were you with the on-site instructors?	0%	3.8%	23.1%	73.1%

When asked what they want to know more about, the areas they discussed include:

- Activities to do with children of different ages, including infants, toddlers, and preschoolers
- Strategies for working with children with challenging behaviors and children with special needs

BKC Training Outcomes: The providers who participated in the trainings were eager to do the following based on what they learned:

- Incorporating music, movement, and relaxation transition
- New routines for snacks, play time and other classroom activities
- Letting children direct more
- Being more observant of children and staying positive with them

Retrospective pre- and post- training survey responses indicate that the providers in the trainings felt *more confident* in using the strategies discussed in the professional development program after finishing the trainings.

STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIPS: Partnerships are critical for system’s change that improves the quality of childcare in Texas. A link to an online survey was sent to external partners identified by the state Military Child Care Liaison (MCCL). Seven partners completed the surveys to describe the landscape and context of child care systems.

The partners are a fairly experienced group, and on average, have been working with child care issues and initiatives in Texas for 11 years. As the chart indicates, most are working in the area of “Education and professional development” for childcare workers; three serve as “Resources”; one does “Regulatory” services; one partner plays “other” role (“Collaboration”).

About Texas’s Childcare System:

Over half of the partners *agreed* that Texas has a statewide vision for quality child care. As partners noted:

“Much progress has been made in recent years, but there is still much work to be done.”

“In the past two years the state has received funding to improve the quality of child care through the Early Childhood Advisory Committee.”

One third of the partners disagree or strongly disagree that Texas has a statewide vision for quality child care. As partners noted:

“While our state has some semblance of a QRIS, we do not have the ‘I’ piece imbedded into our overall system. Different entities in our state have different definitions of what ‘quality’ child care should look like.”

Partners were asked to rate the quality of child care systems from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). State’s regulatory system in the state received highest ratings with most responses at 4.

Rate your states overall child care system using the scale 1 to 5.

1 = poor, 5 = excellent

	1	2	3	4	5
The quality of child care services in general	0	1	4	1	0
Your state’s regulatory system	0	1	1	4	0
Education and training in your state - is this professional development?	0	1	5	1	0
Resource and referral systems	0	1	3	2	0
Provider quality	0	0	5	1	0
Child care for off-installation military families	0	0	3	1	0

**Some respondents chose not to respond to all questions on the survey.*

When asked how the child care system can be improved, the partners offered the following:

- Increase collaboration among organizations for coordinated training efforts
- Improve provider ratios and develop a career ladder
- Advocate the development a state-level QRIS system
- Collect and share with policy makers to make informed decisions
- Encourage developmentally appropriate practice for all early child education institutions

Connection to CYTTAP and MCCLI:

Two of four partners noted they were *somewhat knowledgeable* about the MCCL Initiative. Four of six partners indicated they were *somewhat knowledgeable* about the CYTTAP. All the partners are also connecting with CYTTAP and MCCL partners on a fairly regular basis. Some ways in which partners collaborate with CYTTAP and MCCL members include:

- Teaching CYTTAP training workshops
- Serving on state early childhood collaboration committee with representation from MCCL and CYTTAP
- Representing own agency as a member of the state early childhood training and technical assistance collaborative
- Attending meetings about child care and early childhood collaboration in the state

The partners offered these suggestions to improve quality childcare for military families:

- Encourage the military to invest in increasing the quality of child care off-post
- Customize training to address the unique needs of military families; include a mentor coaching system
- Coordinate with early childhood organizations within the state to provide quality training for all early childhood providers
- Develop mechanisms to track and evaluate changes as Texas enhances its child care services
- Invest more to help programs get accredited and pay subsidies to encourage serving military families

Please indicate what role(s) your organization plays in child care (multiple responses selected)

