

Together 4 Kids Makes a Difference

The Situation

Licensed childcare providers are required to complete training hours each year. Online options are available but often at a cost. According to childcare licensing specialists and conversations with childcare providers, many prefer face-to-face trainings. The benefits include the opportunity to form supportive networks, share local ideas and ask questions.

Adults with specialized knowledge of child development and effective early childhood teaching practices are better able to support children's development. Professionals can teach in ways that lead to healthy, positive outcomes. Effective teaching helps children become prepared to enter kindergarten.

Extension Response

Cavalier County Extension Agent, Macine Lukach, has offered Together 4 Kids for 15 years. This program is an opportunity for childcare providers to obtain 6 hours of training each year. A total of 131 childcare providers from Cavalier, Pembina, Walsh, Nelson, Ramsey, Rolette and Towner counties have attended in the past five years.

Macine, along with area experts, present sessions in the child care competency areas. Together 4 Kids is an opportunity for child care providers to learn something new, review techniques and strategies and have a chance to network. Childcare providers look forward to the training each year.

Topics presented by Macine Lukach, Extension Agent include: Creative Character: Building Character Activities for Young Children; Fun to Play – Ready to Learn; Open the Door to Better Communication; Take Time for Yourself; and What a Difference Attitude Can Make.

Impacts

At the end of the workshops, results indicate that:

- 100% learned a tip or tool that they will be able to use with their childcare setting including:



focusing on positive behavior; incorporating more music and character building activities into program; building relationships with parents; and being positive.

- 95% are able to identify specific information and knowledge gained in most of the sessions.

Feedback

- *Always have a positive attitude. I know the children "feed" off the energy I give off as a child care provider so I will try have more positive days rather than negative.*
- *This was a very uplifting training, all sessions insightful!*
- *I learned a lot from this workshop as a childcare provider and also as a parent.*
- *Gave me many great ideas for my childcare.*
- *Love all the activities – the activities will be very good to share with my daycare kiddos!*
- *Good reminder to take care of yourself so you can do the best job you can!*
- *Plan to build a partnership and good relationship with my parents.*

Public Value Statement

Relevant, non-biased and research-based provider training and education lead to quality childcare programs. Well-trained providers are better prepared to help children grow and learn. Local training options sustain North Dakota's active workforce, which is dependent on viable childcare options.

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