In order to keep children in child care safe and healthy, child care providers need to understand and implement practices to prevent abuse and neglect, reduce the spread of infectious diseases, and decrease the risk of unintentional injuries. The Basic Core Skills for Child Care training program helped 720 child care providers learn these skills. As a result of the program, child care providers reported that they intended to adopt or continue recommended health and safety practices in their child care program.

Ensuring that children in child care are safe, preventing the spread of infectious diseases, preventing abuse and neglect in child care are the most basic components of a high-quality child care program. In order to ensure that children in child care are safe and healthy, Georgia licensing regulations require that all child care providers complete 6 hours of core training in child abuse and neglect, infectious diseases, and injury prevention and control.

A team of FACS Extension faculty developed, pilot-tested, and implemented the 6-hour Basic Core Skills for Child Care training curriculum. The Basic Core Skills for Child Care training program was designed to meet the first-year training requirement for child care providers, and to give providers skills to ensure children's health and safety while in child care. The curriculum is divided into three 2-hour lessons: There's No Excuse for Child Abuse; Infectious Diseases; and Injury Control and Prevention.

Since October 1, 2011, FACS Extension Agents have provided a total of 2,696 educational contact hours in a total of 22 two-hour Basic Core Skills sessions. These sessions have helped 720 child care providers meet annual training requirements for child care licensing.

Participants completing retrospective post-then-pre evaluations have reported significantly improved knowledge of issues such as warning signs of abuse, mandated reporting, the spread of infectious diseases, proper handwashing, choking hazards, and playground inspection.

Participants also report that they intend to improve their caregiving practices as a result of
attending the Basic Core Skills sessions. After the program, more than 94% of participants reported that they would prevent abuse by avoiding being alone with a child; more than 80% planned to discuss procedures for reporting suspected abuse with their center director; 85% intended to supervise children without interfering with their play; 87% would use a testing tube to ensure that objects are not choking risks; 95% would use bleach water to disinfect surfaces; and 93% would wear disposable gloves when changing diapers.

Scope: State

County: Clarke

Group: Family & Consumer Sciences

State Issue: Positive Development for Individuals, Families and Communities
Program Function(s):
Extension

Program Area(s):
Family and Consumer Sciences

Topic(s):
Child Health and Safety
Improving Child Care Quality
FO-1: The quality of child care in Georgia will improve.

Keyword(s):
Passenger Safety
Playground Safety
Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
Health, Safety and Sanitation
Injury Prevention and Control
Poison Prevention

Funding Source(s):
State Appropriated Funds
County Funds

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