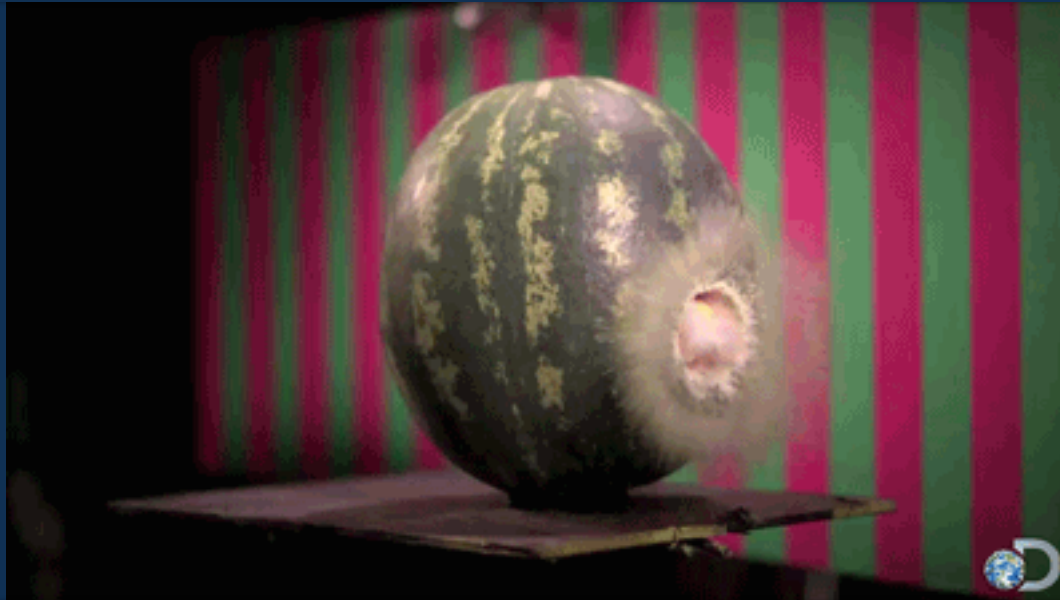


FAMILY, FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR MYTH BUSTERS: Engaging Families in Early Learning



Starting Strong Institute | August 2, 2016

WELCOME

- **Lisa Conley, Child Care Resources**
- **Jennifer Duval, Child Care Resources**
- **Hanh-Tam Thi Nguyen, Maria Elsa Gutierrez-Benavides and Fartun Mohamud, White Center Community Development Association**

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- **Myths about Family, Friend and Neighbor care ... BUSTED**
- **Principles and approaches you can use right away**

PAIR SHARE

Who took care of you when you were a young child (in your first five years)?

DISCUSSION

Why do you think your families chose this type of care?

“Family, Friend and Neighbor care is a new name for the most ancient and widely practiced form of child care.”

Betty Emarita

Development and Training Resources, Minnesota

MYTH 1

Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers see themselves as child care providers.



- It is the most widely used form of child care in this country
- About half of all U.S. children are cared for primarily by extended family and friends
- Use of FFN care varies by culture and age of the child

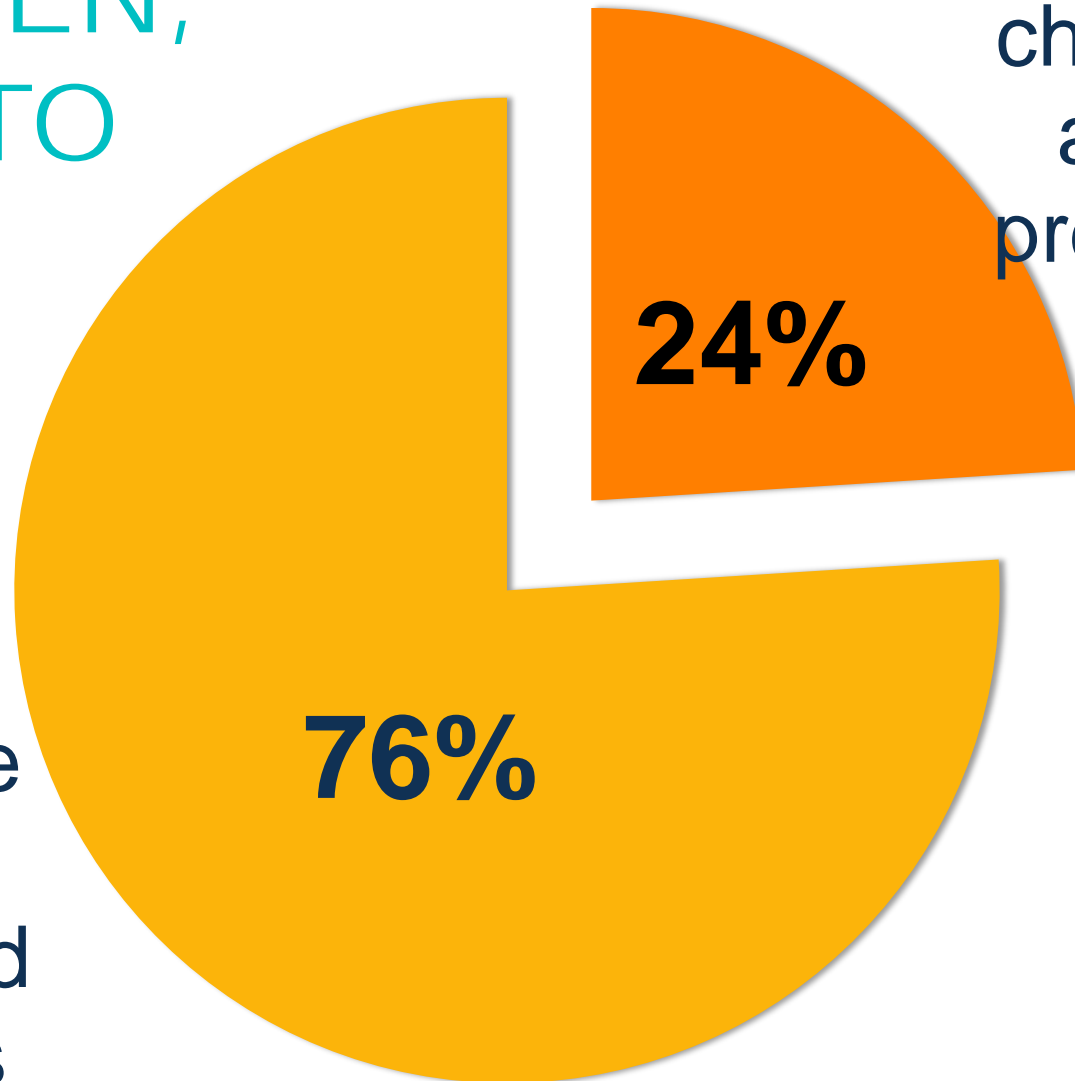


MYTH 2

**Family, Friend and
Neighbor care is none of
our business.**

WHERE ARE CHILDREN, BIRTH TO AGE 5?

In the care of family, friends and neighbors



In licensed child care and/or preschool

24%

76%

FFN & PARENT CARE VARIES BY:

- **Age of the child**
- **Family culture and language(s)**
- **Presence of a special need**
- **Availability of licensed child care**



MYTH 2A

Families choose to have children cared for by extended family because they have no other choice.

FAMILY PREFERENCE IS THE #1 REASON



BOLD GOAL

**90% of young
children ready
for Kindergarten**

Large number of children in FFN Care

+ Cultural preference for FFN Care

- Support to children & families

= Early learning opportunity gap

→ Early learning opportunity

“Used by families that are rural and urban, and across all income levels, and racial and ethnic groups, family, friend and neighbor care offers a remarkable opportunity to develop a shared vision for family friendly policies that support early education.”

*Betty Emarita
Development and Training Resources, MN*

MYTH 3

Parents and Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers don't want to be engaged in children's education.

EFFECTIVE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Meet families where they are – literally and figuratively
- Commit to being culturally responsive
- Commit to strength-based approaches
- Be transparent about your agenda
- Support parents and caregivers as a child's first teachers
- Involve the whole family
- Honor the characteristics of the adult learner
- Deliver information through relationships, peer education, mentoring, dialogue, and experiential learning – gradually, over time
- Listen, learn, and adapt
- Develop relationships and collaborations with all stakeholders



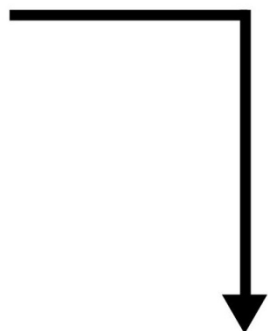
OUR DEFINITION OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT:

Family engagement occurs when there is an on-going, reciprocal, strengths-based and culturally-sensitive partnership between families and their children's caregivers and educators.



PROTECTIVE FACTORS FRAMEWORK

Program strategies that:
Facilitate friendships and mutual support
Strengthen parenting
Respond to family crises
Link families to services and opportunities
Facilitate children's social and emotional development
Observe and respond to early warning signs of child abuse or neglect
Value and support parents



Protective Factors
Parental resilience
Social connections
Knowledge of parenting and child development
Concrete support in times of need
Social and emotional competence of children



Strengthened Families

Optimal Child Development

Reduced Child Abuse & Neglect

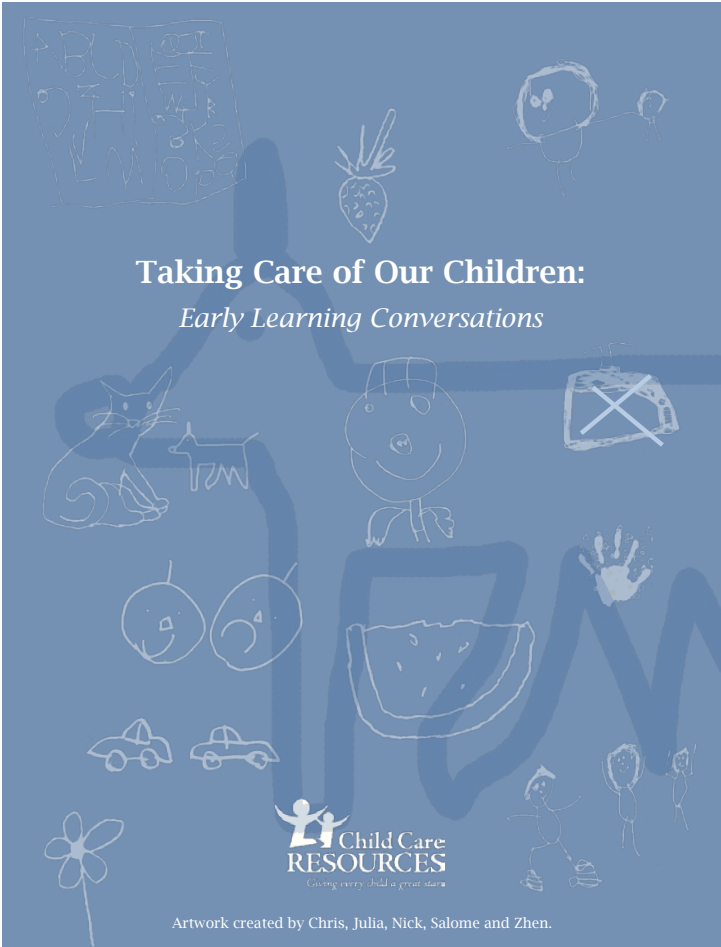
When we recognize FFN care as a valid choice for childcare, we:

- Honor parents' choices for their children
- Respect cultural practices and traditions
- Acknowledge that people define their own extended family
- Value family and community assets
- Support communication between generations



MYTH 4

There aren't effective programs, models or approaches to reach Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers.



Taking Care of Our Children:
Early Learning Conversations

**Child Care
RESOURCES**
Giving every child a great start

Artwork created by Chris, Julia, Nick, Salome and Zhen.

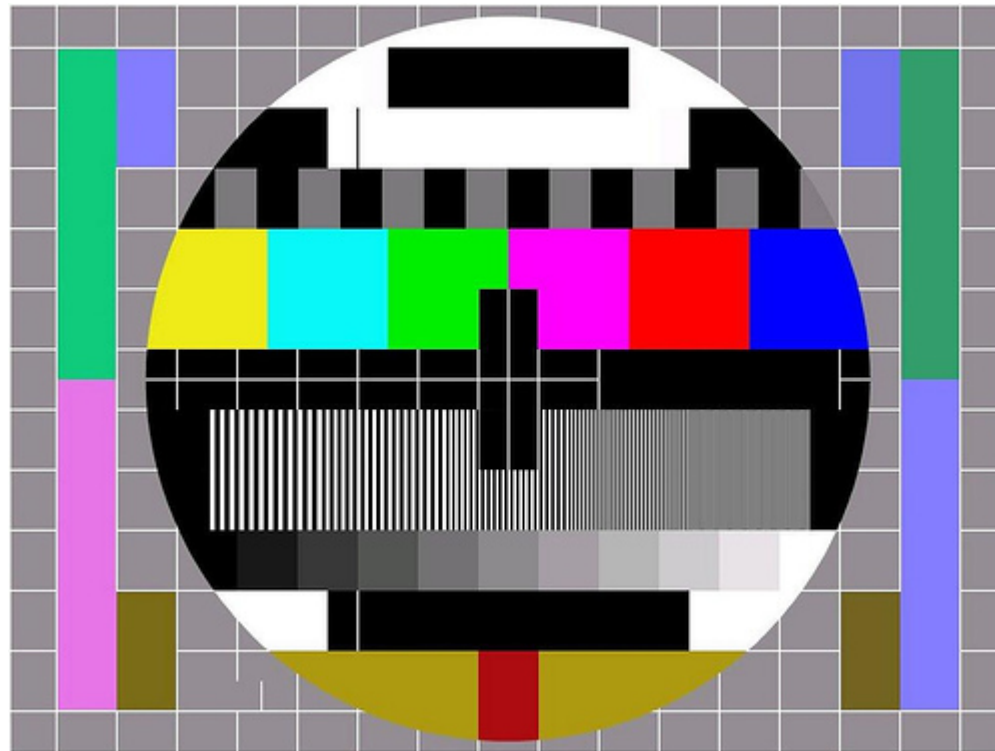


Kaleidoscope

play & learn[®]



KALEIDOSCOPE PLAY & LEARN VIDEO



RESULTS

- 83% talked more often with the children in their care about numbers, shapes and sizes
- 82% described things they do and see with their children more often
- 88% gave their children more opportunities to learn and try new things





Taking Care of Our Children:

Early Learning Conversations



Artwork created by Chris, Julia, Nick, Salome and Zhen.



Examples of New Learning

They know the songs.

Children are counting.

Recognizing letter patterns.

- Caregivers have an important role in children's development and early learning. They don't need advanced degrees to have a positive impact.
- Children learn through play, relationships, and interaction.
- Children don't need expensive toys or equipment to play and learn.
- Everyday activities are full of "teachable moments."







My 5 Senses

- * My child can think of more than one way to solve a problem.
- * My child shows curiosity and seeks answers to questions.



EARLY LEARNING CONNECTORS

WHITE CENTER 
promise



What myths did this workshop bust for you?



Additional Resources

Quality in Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care Settings (2011), by Amy Susman-Stillman, Center for Early Education and Development, University of Minnesota; and Patti Banghart, National Center for Children in Poverty Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.
<http://www.childcareresearch.org/childcare/resources/14340/pdf>

Assessing the Quality of Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care: The State of Research (2008), by Douglas R. Powell, Purdue University. http://main.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/28-3_Powell.pdf?docID=4801

State Policies for Supporting Family, Friend, & Neighbor Care (2008), by Richard Chase, Wilder Research, BUILD Initiative Policy Brief.
<http://www.buildinitiative.org/WhatsNew/ViewArticle/tabid/96/ArticleId/546/State-Policies-for-Supporting-Family-Friend-and-Neighbor-Care.aspx>

Understanding Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care in Washington State: Developing Appropriate Training and Support Full Report (February, 2002). Brandon, R., Maher, E., Joesch, J., & Doyle, S.
http://hspc.org/publications/pdf/FFN_report_2002.pdf

A Catalog Of Strategies To Support Family, Friend, And Neighbor Care (2016), National Women's Law Center.

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