

# Virginia Cooperative Extension

A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University

 **VirginiaTech**  
College of Agriculture  
and Life Sciences



School of Agriculture  
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## **InterCounty Childcare Connection**

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## **InterCounty Childcare Connection Annual Program Report, June 2009**

### **Program Components/Overview:**

#### *InterCounty Childcare Connection:*

- ⇒ is a child care resource and referral program of *Virginia Cooperative Extension* serving Planning Districts 17 and 18
- ⇒ covers nearly 2200 square miles of rural communities of the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck region of Virginia
- ⇒ is a member agency of the Virginia Child Care Resource and Referral Network (VACCRRN) a non-profit, statewide network under contract with the Virginia Department of Social Services
- ⇒ represents our region's child care issues, concerns and needs on the state level
- ⇒ promotes statewide and national child care information and resources to penetrate the workforce and community in our region
- ⇒ collects, maintains and disseminates standardized child care data through the use of a nationally known online software program called NACCRRAware
- ⇒ provides consumer information, technical assistance, resources and referrals to include training to parents, providers and other professionals throughout our community on all aspects of early care and education
- ⇒ is accessible via website, email, fax, toll free and in person
- ⇒ is consistently rated as a valuable resource by its recipients of services
- ⇒ collaborates with other local agencies to identify gaps in services and address the child care needs of the region
- ⇒ leverages local funding, both public and private, in kind support, and state support to ensure continued service delivery to provide quality, unduplicated tailored services in our community

### **2008—2009 Accomplishments**

#### **TRAINING**

***RCC Workforce Development Certificate Program***—Following our successful partnership with RCC to pilot Social Emotional training in Spring 2008, we embarked upon an extended venture in Fall 2009 to offer an Early Care and Education Certificate program through RCC Workforce. This year ICCC coordinated the delivery of 90 hours of training for professionals at both campuses. A total of 111 providers were trained. Numbers of students enrolled who completed a certificate already exceeds 15 with more expected in the next months. Through local funding sources RCC was able to provide 54 scholarship classes to students (approx 50%).

***Center For Social Emotional Foundations in Early Learning***—ICCC continues to offer training to promote social and emotional competency in young children to ensure school readiness.

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

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Forty-two providers were trained this year including unregulated, licensed, public and private preschool, and family child care. This evidence based training is additionally being offered in its entirety in the coming grant year through the Educational Consortium at Rappahannock Community College, additionally supporting our preschool classroom teachers throughout the region.

***Partnering With Parents to Prevent Abuse and Neglect***—Through VACCRRN, ICCC participated in a statewide grant program matched with local funding to provide approximately 20 hours training to early care and education professionals on promoting parent/professional support to prevent abuse and neglect. Included in the programs that benefited from this training was Northern Neck Head Start staff working in five counties. We now have a waiting list for this training.

***MAT training***—To support our licensed programs in meeting regulation requirements, we offered three sessions of MAT training this fiscal year providing 23 certificates of completion. This valuable training is particularly crucial to our Head Start programs in meeting regulation requirements, and supports the delivery of inclusive services to our families with children who have special needs.

***CPR/FA***--In response to local need ICCC has continued to develop and expand CPR/FA services to caregivers in our region. We provide information on our website and via phone/email to promote this training and offer providers multiple sources to obtain training. ICCC has developed a listing of 16 sources for training and additionally offers this training on demand. This year we hosted six **CPR/FA** classes and trained 22 participants including a number of teachers/aides of Head Start. ICCC now offers an online renewal course which can be completed independently then skill tested individually with an instructor.

***Daily Health Observation***—In response to local demand, ICCC has added this training to assist programs in meeting licensing requirements. Four classes were offered certifying twenty individuals.

***Orientation to the Business of Child Care***—continues to be offered to new providers so they may attain foundational knowledge to get their business off to a great start. This is consistent with the findings on the state level that child care professionals lack basic business knowledge.

***123 READ***--ICCC staff continues to offer technical assistance and onsite coaching through 123 READ, an early literacy program for child care professionals to promote pre-reading skills for infants and toddlers. Six programs in our region have participated in the coaching portion of this training opportunity.

## **MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS/CONSUMER EDUCATION**

ICCC has delivered packets to every county including parent education materials, information on training, and brochures about our services. In addition, we have met individually with several county's VDSS staff to promote our training program, and ensure our services are marketed. Partners in this effort include Rappahannock Community College (mailing to over 8000), RISP/Interagency Coordinating Council, VDSS, Healthy Families, Bridges Head Start, Northern

Neck Head Start, Gloucester Resource Council, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Northern Neck Health Fair, and Migrant Council.

We continue to pursue the development of a Smart Beginnings Initiative in this region. We have met with similar programs in Tidewater, and invited the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation to help us identify next steps. We have begun recruiting programs to participate in our local effort.

Our database of providers, clients and other professionals continues to grow, and our online searches by families also continue to grow. Our ChildNet Connection (regional list serve) enables us to market our trainings and provide technical assistance and resources in a timely and cost-efficient way. We continue to offer mailed newsletters as funding permits.

### **QUALITY ASSURANCE—VACCRRN**

ICCC continues to be a member agency of the **VACCRRN**, Virginia's statewide CCR&R which is under contract with VDSS to provide standardized cost-free referrals to families and low-cost accessible training to professionals. This relationship ensures standardized statewide data collection, delivery and reporting. ICCC provides quarterly reports to VACCRRN and completes data checks monthly to ensure complete and accurate data collection. Staff participates on the VACCRRN Advisory Council, and additionally serves on the Board of VACCRRN as a Advisory Council representative. VACCRRN sponsors training for staff in quality assurance and technical assistance.

#### **Outcomes for 2009**

- ⇒ 90 hours training in partnership with RCC Workforce
- ⇒ Two child care professionals achieved an Advanced Certificate through RCC partnership
- ⇒ 13 child care professionals or more achieved a Professional Certificate through RCC partnership
- ⇒ 42 providers trained in CSEFEL Promoting Social Emotional Success training
- ⇒ 88 providers trained in PCAN Partnering With Parents training
- ⇒ 22 Certified in CPR/FA
- ⇒ 23 Certified in MAT
- ⇒ 20 Certified in Daily Health Observation
- ⇒ 189 clock hours of training delivered
- ⇒ 276 professionals trained
- ⇒ 95 Parents/clients served
- ⇒ 230 Providers/educators served

**SUMMARY:** InterCounty Childcare Connection continues to provide quality CCR&R services to our region and serves as a liaison to statewide initiatives. Through both local and state collaborations, ICCC has added multiple training resources to our program and diversified funding sources. We are committed to identifying resources/collaborations to impact the quality and availability of child care in our region and look ahead to support Early Care and Education Initiatives in our region to improve quality and accessibility of child care through our networking, training and advocacy efforts.