OVERVIEW

The Virginia Infant & Toddler Specialist Network (VA ITSN) strives to achieve excellence in early care by increasing the educational level and skills of those who care for infants and toddlers, whether in family homes or in centers.

Fifteen highly qualified infant and toddler specialists work in eight regional offices across the state. The specialists provide three levels of service designed to strengthen the capacity of early care and education programs to deliver high quality services:

Level 1: On-site consultation services including mentoring and support using quality improvement plans.

Level 2: Training and technical assistance to groups of caregivers/teachers and directors.

Level 3: Resources and linkages to existing professional development opportunities.

Programs receiving services from the VA ITSN have achieved measurable outcomes that indicate improved quality of care for infants and toddlers.

For more information, contact the VA ITSN Statewide Director, at Child Development Resources, at (757) 566-3300.

SERVICES PROVIDED

From July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, VA ITSN infant and toddler specialists provided:

- 1,630 on-site events totaling 5,146 hours of intensive technical assistance to 2,993 infant and toddler caregivers/teachers and directors
- 759 training events, totaling over 1,479 training hours to 6,960 infant and toddler caregivers/teachers and directors
- 460 other events including marketing, networking, and post assessments for 699 hours to 641 participants

In total, services included 2,849 events totaling 7,325 hours for 10,594 participants.

ON-SITE CONSULTATION SERVICES

- 150

- 4.7 The average overall quality rating, out of a possible 5.0, as measured by on-site evaluations used to assess the extent to which providers were satisfied with Level 1 services provided by the infant and toddler specialists.

After receiving Level 1 services from the VA ITSN, center based programs demonstrated an extremely statistically significant increase between Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ITERS-R) scores, pre- to post-assessment.

All center-based programs showed an increased ITERS-R score in at least one area of the rating tool, pre- to post-assessment. Overall, the least change occurred in the area of Parents & Staff, one of the highest beginning and ending areas, and the most changed occurred in the area of Listening & Talking.

The VA ITSN is a program of Child Development Resources, www.cdr.org, and is supported by the VA Department of Social Services Grant #93.575, with funds made available to Virginia from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
SoMe of oUr collaboratiVe initiatiVeS and partnerShipS
Child Care Aware of VA
CHIP of VA
Early Childhood Mental Health VA
Head Start/Early Head Start
Military Childcare
Part C/Infant and Toddler Connection
Public Libraries
Smart Beginnings Coalitions
The Planning Council
United Way
VA 2-1-1
VA Alliance of Family Child Care Associations
VA Association for Early Childhood Education
VA Child Care Health Consultants
VA Community Colleges and Universities
VA Cooperative Extension
VA Cross Sector Professional Development Committee
VA Department of Health
VA Department of Social Services
VA Early Childhood Foundation
VA Public Schools
VA Quality Rating and Improvement System
Voices for Virginia’s Children

QUotes froM prograMS
“It is awesome to be able to receive this free training in my home! It will not only enhance my knowledge but also the knowledge of the families.”

“This was a great experience! Our center now offers better care for the children.”

“Our ITS was very knowledgeable, and we incorporated many of her ideas. Our quality has improved dramatically and we are thrilled!”

Family child care homes also demonstrated an extremely statistically significant increase between Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale-Revised (FCCERS-R) scores, pre- to post-assessment.

All family care homes showed an increased FCCERS-R score in at least one area of the rating tool, pre to post assessment. Overall, the least change occurred in the area of Parents & Provider, one of the highest beginning and ending areas, and the most changed occurred in the area of Program Structure.

TRAINING AND OTHER SERVICES

- **4.9** The average overall quality rating of all trainings, out of a possible 5.0, as measured by participant evaluations.
- **263** The number of participants at eight 1-2-3 READ! trainings. Additionally, 190 on-site visits were conducted by early learning mentor coaches for 37 providers for 321 hours of 1-2-3 READ! coaching.
- **23%** The percentage of increase of scores pre- to post-service on health and safety checklists for religious exempt centers and voluntarily registered family care homes.

ITSs routinely used pre- and post-training questionnaires to measure participants’ knowledge of training content throughout the program year. For all trainings in which participants completed a perception of knowledge and change measure, 97% reported an increase in knowledge of the content covered during these trainings.

**Celebrating “Healthy” Babies & Tots 2013** institutes were held in five locations across the state. The institutes focused on how effective health and safety practices impact each child’s learning and lifelong well-being. The overall rating for the five institutes was **4.9**, out of a possible 5.0.

- **604** The number of registered lines for the statewide audio conferences and webinar, facilitated by infant and toddler specialists, on the topics of Allergy Awareness, Fostering Family Connections, Family Friendly Policies and Procedures, and Competencies for Early Care Providers.
- **3,660** The number of providers and partners throughout the state that received the “Network News,” the VA ITSN quarterly e-newsletter.

For more information, please visit the new VA ITSN enhanced, interactive website at www.va-itsnetwork.org