

#### THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE...

# **EVERYONE**



Children



**Families** 

Quality



**Educators** 



Communities



The Economy



#### THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE...

## **EVERYONE**

Quality care empowers children to thrive through learning, development and belonging.



Quality programs earn trust. Trust in families allow parents to go to work and study.



Quality programs value their educators, their expertise and well being.



Quality

Thriving children and supported families build strong communities.



Everyone relies on someone who relies on child care.







# Team Reflection Questions

- Do you see the care you provide children and families impact families daily lives? How so? If you don't - how can you make a change to notice this impact?
- Many long term educators see the children they cared for after they age out of your program.
  Reflect on stories of seeing children in the community. What do you notice as they have grown up? What would you hope to see for future children who will eventually age out of your program?

# Play with Purpose

### Exploring the Impact of Quality

#### Then vs. Now - Growth Stories

- Divide into small groups
- Each educators chooses a child
- Share what they were like when they first started
- Share what they are like now
- As a group identify what parts of the programs quality care contributed to their growth
- Write a story to the child/family based on your reflections

#### **The Quality Box**

- Each educator gets pieces of papers
- Everyone draws or writes things they believe belong in the box (routine, safety, outdoors, consistent educators etc)
- Once everyone places papers in the box, go through each one and reflect how you see them happening in your program. If you don't what changes can you make so you do?

## **Inviting Children's Voices**

How can we shift from having only "adult conversations" about something so important to children; to actually including their voices in meaningful ways? Through play, of course. Below are some developmentally appropriate ways to invite children into the conversation. Feel free to adapt to whatever way would meet the needs of your group of children.

## Exploring the Impact of Quality

#### **Infants**

Provide infants with mirrors, notice how they react when they see themselves, other infants or caregivers in the mirror.

Observe what their expressions tell you.

#### **Toddlers**

My Happy Place

Print different pictures of educators, toys and other children in your program.

Ask the children what makes them smile, or what makes them happy.

Glue their choices on a paper.

#### **Preschoolers & School Agers**

Invite children to draw a picture of themselves at your program. Ask them who is with you? What are you going?

Have discussions about how children are feeling each morning, ask them what makes them feel that way. If needed, what can help them feel better?

Create a brainstorm wall. Give children sticky notes and ask them what makes a good day in your program. What makes them excited to come in and what helps them feel welcome and safe.

School age podcast. Have children interview others and educators about what they love about their program. What makes them feel respected, what do they wish happened more? Record and share with families and educators.

Document your quality journey through pictures, learning stories and picture displays.



## LET'S STAY CONNECTED









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