

From: Toni Porter [<mailto:TPORTER@bankstreet.edu>]  
Sent: Mon 12/15/2008 2:50 PM  
To: Laurion, Joan  
Cc: KariStroede@dcpcinc.org  
Subject: compendium

Hi, Joan and Kari--

I hope all is well. Remember the compilation we did this summer? Well, it's almost ready to go public. Now we're starting to work on the compendium that we mentioned. We've selected Satellite Family Child Care as one of the 25 initiatives which will be included. I hope you will be interested in participating.

And now for the official letter:

"As you know, the Satellite Family Child Care was included in the compilation of initiatives we developed for our OPRE-funded project, Supporting Quality in Home-based Child Care. After our Expert Working Group and the Regional ACF offices review it, the compilation of 90 initiatives will be available publicly.

We would like to do an in-depth profile of Satellite Family Child Care for a compendium of 25 detailed profiles, another product from this project. Although we already have some information on your program from our previous work with you, this time we would like to go deeper. We're interested in materials on the design of your initiative; staffing; materials and curricula, if relevant; forms; space; and the types of data you collect. We'll probably want you to send us this information electronically or by snail mail.

We hope that you will be interested in participating in this phase of the project. To begin, I'd like to have a conversation with you early in January to talk about the kinds of information we're looking for. Then we can have a longer conversation later in the winter to talk about other aspects of your initiative in depth.

I would appreciate it if you would give me some dates and times for our initial conversation and we can work out a good time to talk. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Again, I hope you will agree to our request. The information about your initiative will be helpful for policy makers and program operators who aim to develop efforts to support home-based caregivers.

I look forward to hearing from you. It's up to you who takes the lead on your end.

Happy holidays!

Best, Toni

Toni Porter  
Institute for a Child Care Continuum  
Bank Street College of Education  
610 West 112th Street  
New York, New York 10025  
Phone: 212/961-3420  
Fax: 212/961-3425  
e-mail: [tporter@bnkst.edu](mailto:tporter@bnkst.edu)

## Supporting Quality in Home-Based Care Project Synopsis

Home-based child care—regulated and unregulated family child care and family, friend, and neighbor child care—is a common child care arrangement for many young children in the United States, especially those from low-income families and families of color. Research suggests that home-based care may be the predominant form of nonparental care for infants and toddlers. It also represents a significant proportion of the child care for children whose families receive subsidies. Parents use these arrangements for a variety of reasons including convenience, flexibility, trust, shared language and culture, and individual attention from the caregiver.

Although more studies of quality in family child care exist compared to family, friend, and neighbor care, information about the quality of home-based care is fairly sparse. The limited evidence available presents a mixed picture. Research suggests that home-based child care environments are relatively safe, and that caregivers are affectionate and responsive. Studies using standard environmental rating scales have found low levels of quality. Other studies have found that little time is spent on learning activities such as reading or higher-level talk and engagement with children.

A number of state and local agencies, foundations, and the Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have explored strategies for improving quality in home-based child care settings. However, relatively little is known about the effectiveness of these strategies, making it difficult for states to make informed policy and program decisions about how to best support home-based providers. To begin a process for filling this knowledge gap, the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) contracted with Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR), along with its subcontractor, Bank Street College of Education, to carry out *Supporting Quality in Home-Based Care*.

The purpose of this two-year project is to review the literature and gather information about strategies with the greatest potential for improving the quality of care provided by home-based child care providers who serve children from low-income families—including regulated and unregulated family child care providers and family, friend, and neighbor caregivers—and then refine or develop one or more specific initiatives that can be implemented and rigorously evaluated. The final products of the project will be:

- **Literature Review.** We will produce a comprehensive and up-to-date literature review on quality in home-based child care settings. The review will summarize the literature (including empirical studies, literature reviews, and research syntheses) and identify gaps on the following topics: characteristics of home-based child care providers and settings; patterns of use and reasons why families use home-based care; measuring quality in home-based child care settings; the influence of quality home-based child care on provider, child, and family outcomes; quality-improvement initiatives implemented across states and localities and characteristics of these initiatives that show promise; implementation issues related to quality-improvement initiatives; theoretical and conceptual frameworks to consider in developing and evaluating quality initiatives for home-based child care.

- ***Compendium of Initiatives.*** We will identify quality-improvement strategies and initiatives for home-based child care settings that have been implemented across states and localities and compile a compendium of the most promising strategies. We will conduct a broad scan of initiatives, regardless of funding source, and collect an initial set of information about them. We will use a rating process to select a subset for more in-depth data collection and documentation in the compendium.
- ***Analytic Paper.*** Drawing on the literature review and compendium of initiatives, we will produce an analytic paper that synthesizes this information into a more focused examination of the most promising strategies for improving quality in home-based child care settings, and the links between improved quality and provider, child, and family outcomes. The paper will lay out the theoretical and analytic framework for the development of initiative design options and the evaluation plan.
- ***Initiative Design Options.*** We will develop all materials needed to implement one or more quality initiatives for home-based child care. Whenever possible, we will build on designs and materials created for previously-existing initiatives, refining and adapting them as needed.
- ***Evaluation Plan.*** We will develop an evaluation design, including measurement strategies for proposed outcomes, for rigorously testing the effectiveness of the initiative(s) developed as part of the project.

SUPPORTING QUALITY IN HOME-BASED CARE:  
PROJECT TASKS

