

## Focus Group Analysis – Early Child Care and Education

Concepts	Quotes	Themes
Gardening with children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With my own children, yeah, they have helped. They enjoyed it. My son more than my daughter, he loved raising tomatoes and he couldn't stand to eat them but he liked to raise them. Not the tomatoes, but the cucumbers and a lot of the vegetables that they did like they really enjoyed that they grew them.</li> <li>• The school sent a project home, they had a sunflower seed and then watch it grow throughout the summer and then take it to the fair.</li> <li>• In Liberal. And I think it's called Three Sisters, but it's one of our neighbors, it's their son and his family and they have done very well with that in Liberal. So I don't know, that's my only background.</li> <li>• I think outside is fine, unless you are more of a helicopter parent and you don't want them to get dirty, because you send your child to daycare too in nice clothes so if they knew ahead of time, gardening day.</li> <li>• If the kids get outside, that's great, you don't want them staying inside and watching TV and stuff, so any outdoor activity is awesome if it's nice outside.</li> <li>• Community gardens - In Satanta we have several plots that could be used for that.</li> <li>• I think the sky is the limit, you can grow anything, but I would think if it's a year round daycare they could grow some outside, have a plot outside, and then in the winter there's many things that you can grow inside, or even start your garden in the boxes like they do,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gardening in child care settings is a way to get kids outdoors and teach a variety of important lessons.</li> <li>• Options include container gardening</li> <li>• Resources include County Extension, Master Gardeners, local flower shop, and local farmers</li> </ul>

## Focus Group Analysis – Early Child Care and Education

Concepts	Quotes	Themes
	<p>in the egg cartons and then see the planting process - veggies and flowers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It teaches care and responsibility.</li> <li>• And attachment to the food you grow can make a child more likely to try some of those things than if they were just bought at the store and put on the table. They had a hand in it.</li> <li>• And what is the benefit of a particular fruit or vegetable. Nutrition lessons.</li> <li>• Like life and death, like it could go away, or they might die if they do it wrong. Actually the whole process of it growing, having to have the water to make it grow, and then what your end product is going to be.</li> <li>• And then actually where your food is coming from too. Taking care of the environment, the trees and such. Maybe it doesn't grow as well in cold. Then that would lead to global warming.</li> <li>• The Extension Office has resources</li> <li>• And there are some master gardeners in Montezuma I know, there's one over there, some people like that for guidance.</li> <li>• Love Bug - a flower shop here</li> <li>• Or even our ag community, maybe doing some wheat or corn and maybe have someone come in and talk to the kids about how that process goes too.</li> </ul>	
Availability of care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have a new early childhood center at the school.</li> <li>• And Sublette does have a school daycare center but it is only for school employees. There are two centers – one Pre-K for 4 year olds and then a child care for employees' kids. They</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is very little licensed care in the county</li> <li>• A lot of care is being provided by unlicensed relatives and friends, with no regulations for education, nutrition, or</li> </ul>

## Focus Group Analysis – Early Child Care and Education

Concepts	Quotes	Themes
	<p>take pretty much babies up to school age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The one at Sublette was a big draw for teachers and their families because daycare is so hard to come by.</li> <li>• And I'm not sure that the paras and cooks can take their kids there. At least it's not open the hours for a cook because I know one of the cooks has to find someone for her school aged son to stay with until it's time to.</li> <li>• In Satanta there is one home that is a daycare home. They are licensed, they live in the country but they have a house in town. And I think that's the only one</li> <li>• And then we lost our big one, who was very good and had a lot of children under her. It was her home, but she had a teenaged daughter that still lived at home and was trained in daycare so they could have more kids because they had two caregivers.</li> <li>• A lot of unlicensed care, mostly older family members caring for the younger family members. No formal education for that caregiver.</li> <li>• I can just speak for the six years that I did Parents as Teachers but some of my moms would go off to work and they might have a grandmother who was like in her eighties, who so many of the kids, if you would meet in their homes, there would not be a lot of interaction, it wasn't always a clean environment, and there wasn't interaction between the kids, talking to them, interacting them with activities or with things that would stimulate</li> </ul>	<p>safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The schools have child care just for teachers that has been effective in attracting and retaining teachers</li> <li>• The schools have pre-school for 4 year-olds, but there is need for 3-year-olds as well.</li> <li>• Previously had Head Start program that was beneficial</li> <li>• Availability of child care would help with recruitment of employees across the county</li> <li>• Although there was agreement that there is significant need for quality child care, there was not consensus as to whether a single, county-wide center or two community-specific centers was the best solution.</li> <li>• There is need for some overnight and weekend care to accommodate shift workers and single parents</li> </ul>

## Focus Group Analysis – Early Child Care and Education

Concepts	Quotes	Themes
	<p>them and most of the time it was just like they were just being supervised and there was no learning taking place, the television was on, they were being babysat, it wasn't a learning environment. And I would say over 50% of the homes that I had any, and it might have been even more than that.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I just felt like there was a lot of kids growing up and then when they get to four-year-old preschool, you are expecting the world from them and they don't have any background knowledge and here you are expecting them to be able to do this and they can't. And some of the kids didn't go to church so they didn't have interaction with anybody, I mean other kids except rarely, and I just thought I don't think that's the way.</li> <li>• But I think they were open to the daycares too, they would be open if there was a daycare, but that's not an option.</li> <li>• And now there are a lot of stay at home mothers taking care of their friends' kids and then you've got safety issues because the home has not been inspected, you don't know if the animals have their vaccinations. You don't know what type of food is that mom fixing</li> <li>• And a lot of it (lack of licensed care) is the newer regulations that came in because of infant deaths where a child was left in the carrier all day instead of put down appropriately for naps, and some of the stricter regulations on homes, how they are set up and it's</li> </ul>	

## Focus Group Analysis – Early Child Care and Education

Concepts	Quotes	Themes
	<p>hard to do a daycare in your own home. There's always the teenage daughter that leaves the razor on the wrong side of the bathtub and then you're in violation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I have never been a daycare provider but the requirements. I guess everything that comes with it, it's a pretty hard job, especially when the need is so high here you are probably going to get pretty swamped right away.</li> <li>• It would be much easier to do daycare in a center where you don't live and you can go to work and then go home to your family.</li> <li>• Finding a building that meets the criteria, the requirements of square footage, bathrooms have to be a certain type, you can't just have a regular bathroom. You have to have a certain amount of outdoor play area, all of that has to meet criteria. And then you have to be able to afford to rent it from your proceeds. So for an individual that's awful hard. It's almost got to be a community supported. A single building for both communities without a tax increase.</li> <li>• Right now I drive to Sublette, and it's just hard to do that every day. And then to get over there before 5:00 when you don't get off work until 5:00, and in the winter time your roads can get bad.</li> <li>• And I think with this high demand, it would just benefit to have two.</li> <li>• I think there are at least four or five kids in this county that need overnight</li> </ul>	

## Focus Group Analysis – Early Child Care and Education

Concepts	Quotes	Themes
	<p>care it at any given time. Some of the processing crews, if you work at the convenience stores, there's a lot of jobs in the county that do go at night.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yeah, you're right, convenience stores. I know a lot of the young moms that have babies work at the convenience stores. There's several in Sublette, the one on the four-way corner and then the one in Satanta.</li> <li>• And if you're a single mom it's really rough because you can't leave them at home with dad.</li> <li>• At the senior center there's one. But they're full. There's one home daycare in Sublette.</li> <li>• I think that is a need that has been in this community for, when my kids were little and I wasn't full time employed, but if they would call me to substitute there were lots of days I had to say no I can't, there's no one to take care of my kids.</li> <li>• And at one time we talked about having a sick center so if the child is sick they would go in a special area away from the healthier kids, we had talked about doing something like that too at one time.</li> <li>• Important components of ideal care: Good staffing would be the main one. Good temperament. It's not something nice to go through, but the providers would be for them to get trained.</li> <li>• Benefits of child care center: I think we would get more employees, our retention would be more here too, because with my staff, I lose a lot because they don't have childcare, or</li> </ul>	

## Focus Group Analysis – Early Child Care and Education

Concepts	Quotes	Themes
	<p>the hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think there's probably a lot of single parents in the community that would probably get state assistance that would help.</li> <li>• I think it would help attract school teachers too because I have heard that comment, I won't even apply at Satanta because they don't, I'll try Sublette.</li> <li>• Even if the school would do a preschool for 3 and 4 year olds instead of just 4 year olds would be nice.</li> </ul>	
Parenting Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well, for six years in Satanta I got to do Parents as Teachers and we had Triple P Parenting, we had it brought in Spanish and in English and we had wonderful responses.</li> <li>• I would occasionally send flyers home that had been brought to the school. There would be a class on assertive discipline or something like that.</li> <li>• Southwest Guidance Center does some things too; I don't know if they actually do anything actually here. I know they come to Sublette.</li> <li>• I know that there are some classes that they refer you to, like at the hospital for new parents. Every time I take my kids for vaccinations, they always give us good information.</li> <li>• I think single parent support would be awesome too.</li> <li>• Triple P Parenting - I'm trying to think of the acronyms, what they were, we contacted Russell Child Development Center and they had the presenters that were trained and we have people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been parenting resources in Parents and teachers and Triple P Parenting in the past, but both have been eliminated in Haskell County</li> <li>• Learn and Play is a program that creates opportunities for parents and kids to interact constructively, but it is only 1 hour either weekly or bi-weekly.</li> <li>• Literacy is an issue when using printed materials as parenting resources</li> <li>• Need to consider multiple options for delivering parenting information to accommodate schedules, literacy, and cultural differences</li> <li>• Consider calling it parenting support</li> </ul>

## Focus Group Analysis – Early Child Care and Education

Concepts	Quotes	Themes
	<p>in our county who are trained to do Triple P Parenting, and what the acronyms are I can't remember.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well, the program got cut. And so we don't even have Parents as Teachers in Satanta or Sublette, so it got cut in both places.</li> <li>• Learn and Play - And that is supervised through Russell Child Development Center as well. And it's every other week in the evening.</li> <li>• One day a week, every week for one hour.</li> <li>• I don't think there is any stigma because it is something that is interactive with the kids. They do have some programs that are more towards the parents but –</li> <li>• I think it almost gets to be a club, the parent gets to get out and do things, the kids are there but they have some adult relationships. And activities.</li> <li>• In the summers they have outdoor activities at the park and then in the winter months inside.</li> <li>• And it wasn't just one ethnic group, it was the low Germans, Hispanics and English, all. But the Hispanic people were so receptive to it and so we had a bilingual one in Satanta at the Methodist Church and they have been so open to help us, and then the Catholic Church let us do the Spanish one at their church.</li> <li>• We do have the Healthy Start home visitor through the health department and the lady that does that is bilingual. Yeah, anyone that's having babies qualifies for that. We do it more in the</li> </ul>	



## Focus Group Analysis – Early Child Care and Education

Concepts	Quotes	Themes
	<p>clinic anymore because we have WIC and some of those activities that are bringing a lot of those parents in, and needing that type of help but any time we find out about a pregnant woman, it's offered, and when they deliver again it can continue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You really have to prod them, labor intensive. But that's just the way we are, our moms are so running here and there and going everywhere, but they love to be reminded, they aren't saying don't bother me. They are always thanks for reminding me, I forgot.</li> <li>• A lot of our German Mennonites from Mexico are not extremely literate in English if at all. Now some of the younger ones are that have gone to school here but a lot of the parents that haven't gone to school here aren't.</li> <li>• I think online blogs could be a good source. I think classes are good but with all the activities going on it's hard for parents to get there. You definitely would have to have childcare.</li> <li>• Call it parenting support – a little less intimidating than “parenting education”. Something to make it seem a little less like I need help.</li> <li>• I don't know what that would look like, but you could talk about budgeting on one income, you can talk about those times when you are trying to discipline your child but you let it slide because you just don't want to fight that battle, and you are trying to work and go to school. There are a lot of single moms around here too that would</li> </ul>	

## Focus Group Analysis – Early Child Care and Education

Concepts	Quotes	Themes
	really need some support.	
Breastfeeding support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There's an educational resource in Garden City at the hospital. It's a coalition but they also have a clinic one day a week, and a nurse that is certified</li> <li>• In the county, the health department, WIC program does promote breast feeding and we have a couple of people that have some training. We don't have a breast feeding educator that has taken the certification course. But if it's needing something really serious then it would be the breast feeding coalition up in Garden City, and they do serve our county as well.</li> <li>• We have wanted to get a Peer Breast Feeding Mother, it's a program through KDHE but we have not found a mother that wants to do that except one that is extremely anti-vaccine.</li> <li>• Coffective is a WIC program and there are laminated pages that focus on things such as you have a right to choose your birthing coach and have who you want in the labor room or no one if you don't want them. Breast feeding support, breast feeding troubleshooting, how to go back to work and breast feed, talks about pumping, things like that, and then a lot of resources with it.</li> <li>• Our two providers in the clinics that do prenatal care so they can use it with the patients they have. They were both very open, they are both very supportive of breast feeding.</li> <li>• And don't you think that the German Mennonites and the Hispanics are so</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are breastfeeding support resources in Garden City,</li> <li>• In Haskell County, the Health Department provides breast feeding education and support</li> <li>• The two pre-natal care providers in Haskell County promote breastfeeding with their patients</li> <li>• Breast feeding is embraced more in the Mennonite and Hispanic populations than among Caucasians in Haskell County</li> <li>• Peer support would be helpful if the right person is identified to lead it</li> </ul>

## Focus Group Analysis – Early Child Care and Education

Concepts	Quotes	Themes
	<p>much more open than the Caucasians, sometimes as a rule overall. Even when I was doing home visits with Parents as Teachers it seemed like the Hispanic and the German Mennonites were so much more that's what you do, that's the way we do it, at least that's what I found</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If there was like a class where all the moms kind of went together, but then outside of class, if there was like a small support group, like messenger, or if they got together separately. It would be kind of weird if you just got together to talk about that one thing.</li> </ul>	
Health Education for Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition is number one. Healthy eating</li> <li>• Safety and injury prevention</li> <li>• Try to push the Stranger Danger and crossing the street.</li> <li>• Talking to strangers is a big one.</li> <li>• Personal hygiene and cleanliness/hand washing.</li> <li>• Physical activity. Especially in today's climate of electronic gadgets, where the kids are just –</li> <li>• Well, dental is important and they do learn about that in both of those settings.</li> <li>• Teaching them about their bodies, like this is your body and if you don't want anyone to touch it, you don't have to. Kids just grow up so fast now.</li> <li>• Attitudes. Relationships. Peer group, even at that age</li> <li>• What I was thinking of was just like the depression and then the anxiety and all the stuff that goes along with that</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents want their child's care provider to also offer health education to their children</li> <li>• Many health topics for children were identified for child care providers to include in their teaching</li> </ul>

Focus Group Analysis – Early Child Care and Education		
Concepts	Quotes	Themes
	<p>as you get older, that if you're not taught those things at an early age that those things can follow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Figure out how to problem solve.</li></ul>	