



The Arizona Kith and Kin Project



Caring for your family's, friend's and neighbor's little ones

The Arizona Kith and Kin Project is a program of the Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)





Impacting a Hidden Population

The **Arizona Kith and Kin Project** improves the quality of care provided by “kith and kin” (family, friend and neighbor) child care providers.

Kith and kin providers care for the children of friends and family members and are, for the most part, unregulated with little formal education. Recent national and local research has shown that kith and kin providers, particularly in low-income communities, care for more than 50 percent of children with working parents.





Working Together to Create Change

The Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC) developed the “Arizona Kith and Kin Project” in March 1999. ASCC, along with a group of community partners, has developed a project to strengthen the quality and reliability of kith and kin child care in Arizona.

ASCC collaborates with community organizations such as Head Starts, resource centers, faith-based organizations, schools, and other non-profits to identify, recruit and deliver project services.





Arizona Kith and Kin Project Objectives

- Provide early childhood training and support to kith and kin child care providers
- Increase participants' knowledge of the elements of quality child care
- Increase participants' understanding of ways to challenge and stimulate young children
- Increase participants' knowledge of childhood injury prevention and distribute safety material and equipment



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The Arizona Kith and Kin Project Model

The Arizona Kith and Kin Project delivers services through the following:

- **Traditional training/support group model**
 - 14 week training/support group session
 - Weekly two to four hour meetings
 - On-site child care
- **La Paz/Mohave Region Goals:**
 - Provide four (4) training/support sessions in centrally located areas such as Quartzite and Bullhead City.
 - Provide training and support to sixty family, friend and neighbor child care providers.





Early Childhood Information and Support

The Arizona Kith and Kin Project includes the following curriculum topics:

- Child Development/Ages and Stages
- Daily Schedule Planning
- Parent/Caregiver Relationships and Business Practices
- Guidance and Positive Discipline
- Arranging the Environment
- Language and Literacy
- Nutrition
- Brain Development
- Child Passenger Safety
- Health and Home Safety
- Pediatric First Aid, CPR and AED Certification



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Results and Impact

The Arizona Kith and Kin Project will provide training and support to more than 1,230 kith and kin providers and impacting more than 2,460 children in Maricopa, Yuma, Coconino, La Paz, and Mohave Counties.

Evaluation is an important component of the Arizona Kith and Kin Project.

The program collects data from participants utilizing the following:

- Child Care Assessment Tool for Relatives (CCAT-R)
- Pre and Post Tests
- Interviews regarding Child Rearing Attitudes, Perceived Needs and Resources and Use of Social Support





Provider Characteristics

Relatives

Motivation - to help families

Average # of children = 2.1

Live close to children

Same ethnic and linguistic background

Often unpaid - sometimes barter

Opportunities

- Low provider:child ratios
- Emotional investment/attachment
- Individualized attention
- Cultural congruency
 - Reinforce family values
 - Language
- Close relationship with parents
 - Bi-directional engagement
- Family support helps parents stay employed

Challenges

- Low incentive for training and formal education
- Similar socioeconomic status as families
 - Fewer material resources
 - Less education
- No regulation
 - Health and safety
 - Child development needs
 - School readiness
- Hard to reach population
 - Less intentionality



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Key Findings

- Extremely high participation rates
- Increases in key outcomes:
 - Health and safety
 - Educational material in environment
 - Communication with children
 - Engagement with children
 - Learning activities
 - Knowledge of child development
- Provider feedback
 - More training
 - Connection to formal resources



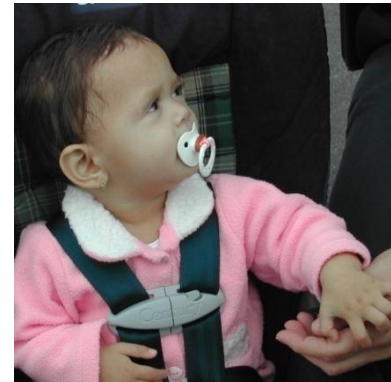
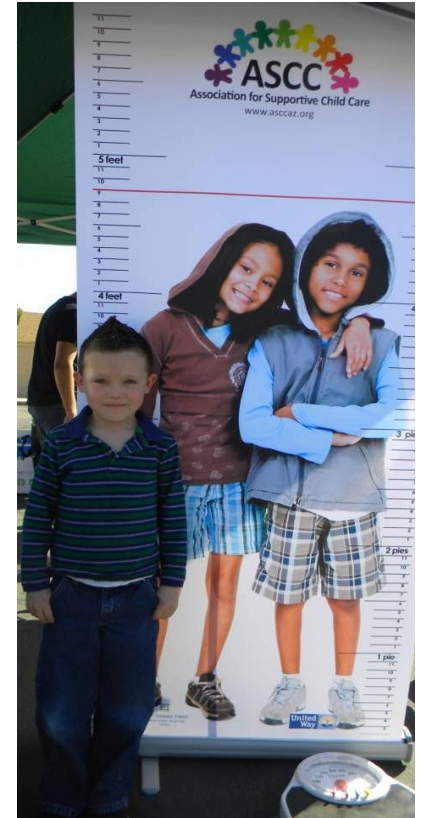
The Arizona Kith and Kin Project's evaluation component is conducted by
Indigo Cultural Resources.



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