



Beginning Education Early Childcare at Home (BEECH)

*Changing how family day home providers prepare infants
and very young children for kindergarten*

Initiative of the Texas Early Learning Council

Conducted by The Children's Learning Institute UTHealth at Houston





Lead Team

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- In collaboration with Texas PBS and WGBH in Boston



Importance of Home-based Child Care

- Almost 50% of children in Texas are in home-based early childhood settings.
- In Harris County alone, there are approximately 1,800 licensed and registered child care home operations.
- Unfortunately, although home-based care is widely used, there are few quality initiatives aimed at this important group of providers.



Beginning Education: Early Childcare at Home (BEECH)

Type of Care	Providers Number	Slots Number
Child care centers	8,300	586,923
Licensed Homes	1,626	12,600
Registered Homes	6,330	30,557
Listed Homes	4,037	10,155
Public Pre-K	3,154	554,287
Private Pre-K	1,064	54,644
Military CDCs	18	3,106
Head Start	989	65,178
Early Head Start	233	7,119
Migrant/ Seasonal Head Start	39	7,700
Child Care Development Fund	12,652	139,537
IDEA: Early Childhood Intervention	56	66,648
IDEA: Preschool Programs for Children with Disabilities	4,044	41,815



Importance of Efforts to Enhance the Quality of Child Care

- **Responsive Caregiving** in the first 5 years of life is critical to children achieving the most optimal outcomes.
- **Common Problems found in low quality Child Care:**
 1. Highly controlling staff interactions, a style demonstrated to raise levels of anxiety as measured by elevated cortisol levels in 2 yr olds.
 2. Poorly trained staff with limited knowledge in how to responsively support young children's social, emotional, and cognitive development.
 3. High instability in child Care classrooms that results in children experiencing stress.
- As Texas grows (we are growing faster than any other state), and the price the care goes up (25% family budget) more families will move toward home based care.
- Previous CLI research supporting the goals of BEECH – shows we can make changes in quality for this population



Goals of the REC Project:

- Raise the quality of staff-child interactions in child care centers serving 2 yr. old children from low income families.
- Enhance child care staff's *responsiveness* to young children's needs and signals
- This includes:
 - supports for children to learn to regulate their behavior
 - Rich language input and cognitive stimulation



REC Program Characteristics

- 34 child care centers in Houston and 31 in Florida (total across 3 yrs was 65)
- 542 children with an average age of 2.9 yrs who spent on average 40 hrs/wk in child care
- 50% of staff had high school degree only; 40% had H.S.+ 1 to 2 yrs college
- Centers were randomly assigned to receive the REC program or not (“business as usual”)
- REC staff- Early childhood coaches from CLI and Florida State
- REC was funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Child Health and Development



8 Active Ingredients of REC

- Sensitive and prompt responses to child's signals/needs
- Provide support and positive choices to help child manage behavior
- Label and help child cope with their feelings
- Help child resolve conflicts with their peers
- Use effective strategies for help child with sharing, tantrums transitions
- Provide rich language input
- Build on child's interests rather than redirecting or ignoring
- Scaffold child's learning by providing input they can understand

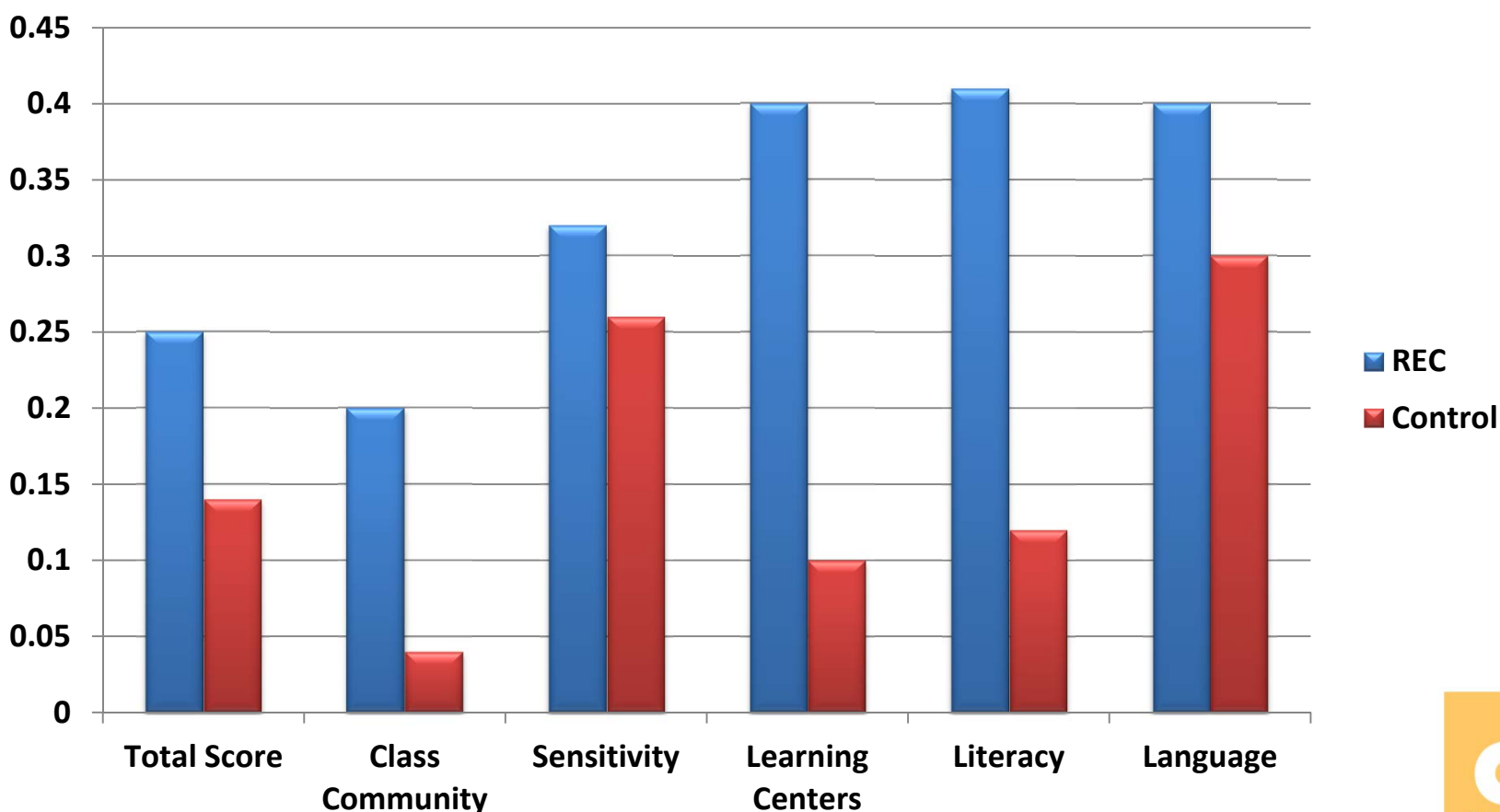


Measures of Staff and Children's Behavior

- *Staff:* Teacher Behavior Rating Scale
- *Children:*
 - 1) Emotion understanding
 - 2) Social/behavior competence
 - 3) Language/literacy
 - 4) Relationship with teacher

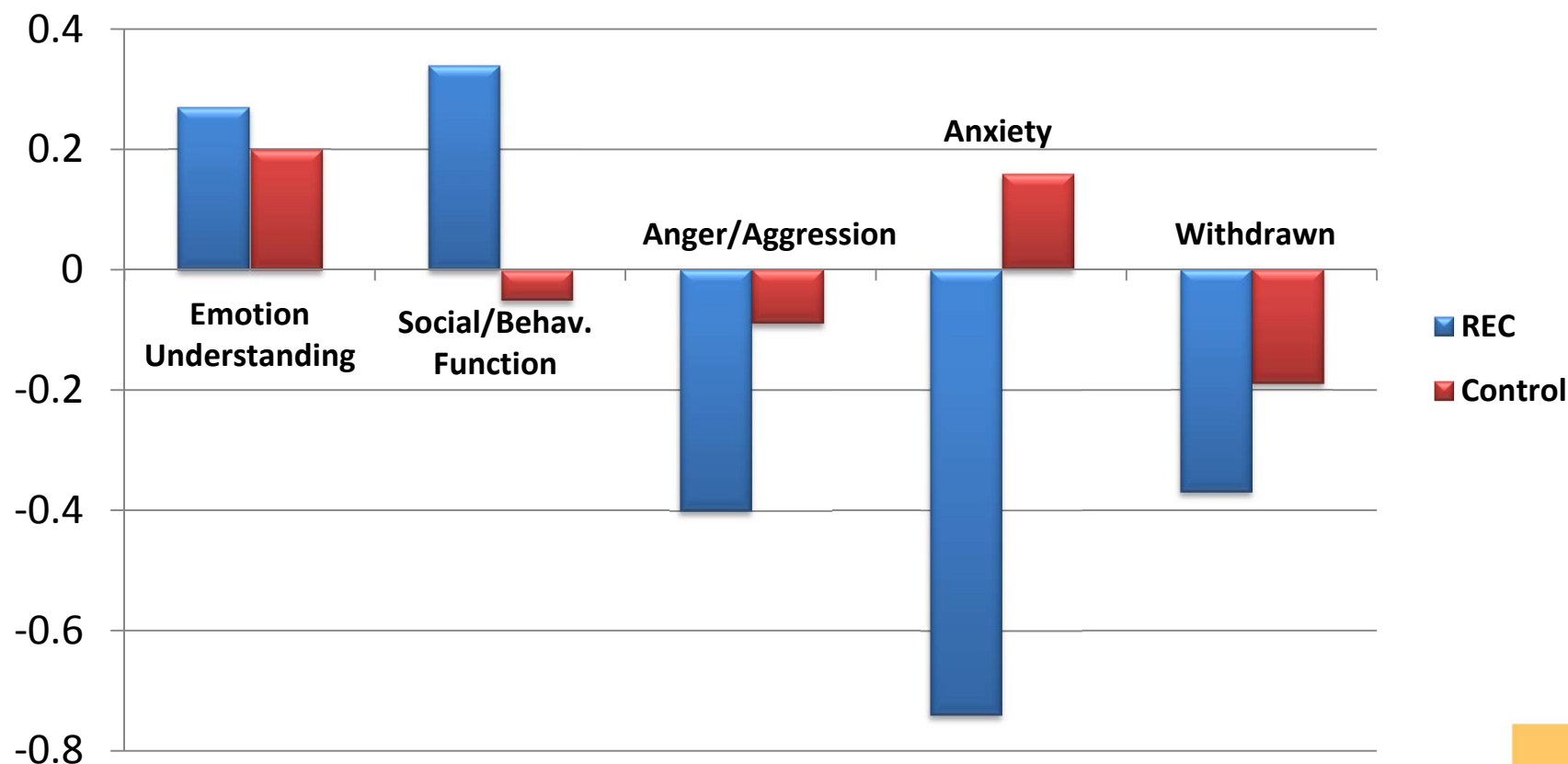


Rec Increases in Staff Responsiveness and Cognitive Stimulation





REC Increases in Children's Social and Emotional Learning and Decreases in Emotional Stress





IMPLICATIONS

- Results of this unique research project demonstrate that with good professional development and curriculum supports, child care staff can increase their responsive interactions and cognitive stimulation.
- Improvements in staff responsiveness results in very young children showing greater increases in social, behavioral, and emotional competence that will prepare them to benefit from later school experiences
- These findings support the need for more statewide efforts to provide quality training experiences for child care staff



What is the Family Child Care Project?

- An experimental study that examines the effectiveness of an online professional development course for home-based child care providers.





Sample for the FCC project

- Total number of providers = 360
- English Speaking FCC Homes = 180
- Spanish Speaking FCC Homes = 180

Assessment of Program Effectiveness

- Six to eight children across ages 6 wks. to 5 yrs, with parent consent, were randomly selected to receive developmental and school readiness assessments prior to the beginning of the program and after it ended.
- Child Care providers' interactions with their children were rated through observation measures at the same two timepoints.

***BEECH is the first RCT for
Family based child care –
And we are doing it in
Spanish Too!***



Purpose of the Family Child Care Project

- To improve school readiness of young children in home-based child care through professional development of child care providers
- School Readiness Skills:
 - Problem Solving
 - Early literacy
 - Early Math
 - Socio-emotional skills
 - Language skills



How has BEECH changed you?





BEECH Intervention

- Beginning Education: Early Childcare at Home (BEECH) available in English and en Español
- 20 session online course that uses documentary video of caregivers and children interacting, and supporting text resources to introduce child care practices



Welcome!



The **Beginning Education: Early Childcare at Home (BEECH)** course is a 20-session program for at-home childcare professionals. This course will give you the tools and skills to improve your work, and thereby improve the growth of children in your care. BEECH was created to help home childcare providers identify key care behaviors that support children's learning.

The goal of the Children's Learning Institute is to make sure every child is equipped to learn and able to excel.

In this 20-session course you will:

- learn about children's development
- identify key strategies for improving children's learning
- observe early childcare educators in action
- participate in forum discussions with fellow educators

Each session will take approximately an hour. Please bring an open mind and a willingness to ask questions and share your thoughts.

Let's get started!

[Course A](#) [Course B](#)





You are logged in as Stephanie Sessio

► BEECH Course A

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Thank you! [more...](#)

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Calendar

October 2012

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Legend Key

Global Course

Group User

Topic outline

Beginning Education: Early Childcare at Home (BEECH)

This course uses Moodle, a Learning Management System that supports online learning. Before you start the course, we recommend you download this [Course Guide \(PDF\)](#).

0 About this Course

- Course Content and Estimated Time
- Major Strategies
- Getting Started
- Introduce Yourself

If you have any questions about the course, please contact Ursula.Y.Johnson@uth.tmc.edu If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact Donald.R.Swofford@uth.tmc.edu

- BEECH Glossary
- SMART Goals
- IDEAL Problem Solving Worksheet
- Session Outline
- BEECH Forum Guidelines
- Course A Timeline
- BEECH Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)





Beginning Education: Early Childcare at Home (BEECH)



Beginning Education: Early Childcare at Home (BEECH)

Home » BEECH Course A » Routines and Transitions

Routines and Transitions

Listen

MP3 audio



- Routines help to organize and structure the day so that children have an idea of what will happen next
- Don't rely on the clock, but do keep some routines on a specific time frame
- Planning a transition will allow time for children to finish one activity and move to the next one at their own pace

< PREV
NEXT >

Last modified: Thursday, 27 October 2011, 02:49 PM

 [Moodle Docs for this page](#)

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BEECH Course A



Beginning Education: Early Childcare at Home (BEECH)

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Beginning Education: Early Childcare at Home (BEECH)

[Home](#) ▶ [BEECH Course A](#) ▶ [Case Study: Negative Signals](#) ▶ [View submitted assignments](#)

No attempts ha

Case Study: Negative Signals

Betty is busy trying to get the toddlers and preschoolers to clean up before she starts preparing lunch. She looks over at her infants and sees this.

What are the infants communicating to her?

- Click "Edit my submission" to write your answers
- When finished, click "Save changes"
- Next, go to [Expert Thoughts](#)



You have not submitted anything yet

[Edit my submission](#)



What do you think about BEECH's online course?





Principal (home)

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Principal (home)

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dario

octubre 2012

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¡Bienvenido!



Beginning Education: Early Childcare at Home (BEECH) es un curso con 20 sesiones.

BEECH se creó para ayudar a los proveedores de cuidado infantil en el hogar y a las familias, y darles información que les sirva para identificar las conductas del cuidado infantil que apoyan el aprendizaje de los niños durante todo el día.

CURSO A

CURSO B



Beginning Education: Early Childcare at Home (BEECH)

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[Lo que aprenderá: La idea](#)

¡Mírelo! Vinculando objet

SP Session 9: Scaffolding Video 4

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¿Conectando Objeto y Cómo se Parece?



0:01 / 0:19





How has BEECH affected families in your care?





Implications of Study

- Low-cost, flexible and effective professional development option for a sector of early care professionals that are often ignored
- Effective care and instruction for young children before they enter school
- Less resources dedicated to remediation because children enter school ready to learn
- Texas now has established a workable, inexpensive model for quality improvement with this hard to reach population, based on firm research



QUESTIONS?

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