



Research Snack Time Newsletters - Archive

Between December 2024 and December 2025, the National ECE Workforce Center distributed the Research Snack Time newsletter to its mailing listserv. Intended for policy and program leaders, ECE providers, ECE support organizations, higher education leaders, and researchers, the goals of the Research Snack Time newsletters were to:

- Provide timely, actionable research updates to inform policy and program leaders of new findings with a focus on evaluations.
- Highlight ongoing evaluations of promising strategies to facilitate uptake of similar strategies through knowledge building and connection to others in the field.
- Socialize researchers to understand policy needs and strategies for policy-relevant research to try to increase research with capacity to positively impact the ECE workforce.

This document provides summaries of and links to all editions of the Research Snack Time newsletter.

December 2024 - Workforce Compensation

In this Research Snack Time, we highlighted recent work documenting the importance of a well-compensated ECE workforce.

[On the Menu: ECE workforce compensation](#)

April 2025 - Family Child Care Business Practices

In this edition, we discussed two research studies that explored the effectiveness of business support programs and professional development resources for family child care owners.

[On the Menu: How can states/territories and programs support family child care \(FCC\) educators in strengthening their business operations?](#)

May 2025 - ECE Apprenticeships

In this Research Snack Time, we discussed emerging findings from apprenticeship models and provided a spotlight example from the state of Rhode Island.

[On the Menu: Why are apprenticeships a promising approach?](#)

June 2025 - Pay Parity Initiatives

In this edition, we reviewed evaluations of two initiatives aimed at increasing early educator pay through parity policies and salary scales.

[On the Menu: How can salary parity initiatives impact early educator retention and well-being?](#)

July 2025 - Benefits of FCC Networks

In this Research Snack Time, we described three studies that have examined the associations between staffed FCC network participation, provider experiences, and child care quality.



[On the Menu: What benefits do family child care networks bring?](#)

September 2025 - Data-Driven Decision Making

In this edition, we highlighted examples of data-driven decision making in support of the ECE workforce. Specifically, we featured a tool to help state leaders strengthen their ECE system and a report outlining how program leaders can use a data-driven strategy to make program-level improvements supporting the workforce.

[On the Menu: How can data drive change for the early care and education workforce?](#)

October 2025 - FCC Educators in Pre-K Systems

In this Research Snack Time, we focused on FCC educators' participation in public pre-K systems. The selected studies highlight FCC educators' perspectives on public pre-K systems, barriers to participation, and strategies that may support their participation.

[On the Menu: How can state and local leaders help family child care educators participate in public pre-K?](#)

November 2025 - The ECE Workforce in AIAN Communities

In this edition, we highlighted research about ECE educators in American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities. ECE educators in AIAN communities live and provide care in unique contexts and may require unique workforce supports.

[On the Menu: What makes the ECE workforce in American Indian and Alaska Native communities unique?](#)

December 2025 - Educator Voice

In this Research Snack Time, we highlighted research done in collaboration with FCC providers and networks using participatory research methods.

[On the Menu: How can researchers collaborate with family child care educators to produce research with the potential to change practice and policy?](#)