



Serving Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregivers

with Melody Garcia: GRT Early Literacy Librarian

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Did you know . . . **50-60% of children** with working parents are cared for by Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers?

Learn more about the Childcare Landscape in your county: **Colorado Kids Count 2021 Report**

www.coloradokids.org/data/kids-count-archive/2021-kids-count/

Not in Colorado? Try:

www.aecf.org/resources/2021-kids-count-data-

Who exactly are FFN Caregivers?

Relatives, friends, neighbors, or babysitters/nannies who provide home-based care – in the caregiver’s or child’s home – and are unlicensed or subject to minimal regulation.

(Susman-Stillman & Banghart, 2012)

Parents **choose** Family, Friends and Neighbor care because it provides:

- Loving, responsive relationships
- Individual or small group care
- Home language/ culture
- Trusted caregiver with their own wealth of experience and knowledge

Multiple sources show that FFN providers are interested in **training and information** on early learning and development and **connecting** with their peers. The library is the perfect place!

Where to Start:

- Identify and welcome FFN caregivers in your library
 - Gentle inquiries, “Who did you bring to the library today?”
 - Inclusive language, “Grown-ups” “Caregivers” rather than “parents”
- Model early learning practices in programs and conversations
- Look beyond your library walls / Listen to community needs
- Build relationships with community partners
- Offer assets-based services and programs
 - What are the strengths of the FFN community?
 - What’s in your library toolbox?

The **GRT Success Cycle** is a planning tool developed to guide your outreach and service to FFN caregivers!

This publication was made possible by Grant Number 90TP0009-01-00 from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the



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Further Reading:

Engaging Colorado's FFN Child Care Providers in Early Childhood Systems, Early Milestones Colorado (September 2021)

<https://earlymilestones.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/FFN-Report-Web.pdf>

Supporting and Strengthening FFN Care: Honoring Family Choice and Recognizing the Need for Flexible Care

<https://homegrownchildcare.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/HG-Supporting-Strengthening-FFN-Care-5-25-2021-v3.pdf>

The Impact of Covid-19 on Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care in Colorado: Ensuring ALL Children are Valued, Healthy, and Thriving, United Way, 2020

<https://unitedwaydenver.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Family-Friend-and-Neighbor-Care-Study-with-Mile-High-United-Way.pdf>

School Readiness for All: The Contribution of Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care in Colorado, March 2013

<https://www.coloradokids.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/FFN-Final.pdf>

Quality in Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care Setting, Amy Susman-Stillman and Patti Banghart, May 2011

https://www.nccp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/text_1010.pdf

Zero to Three-

Places for All Babies: Home-Based Child Care is an Essential Part of the Solution

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/4234-places-for-all-babies-home-based-child-care-is-an-essential-part-of-the-solution>

The Grand Connector: Grandparent Resources

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/2464-the-grand-connector-grandparent-resources>

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