

GROW NJ KIDS TRAINING SERVICES



Grow NJ Kids Training Services directs, delivers, and evaluates training that helps build the knowledge and skills required of child care professionals who are part of Grow NJ Kids, an initiative to raise the quality of early care and education for children from birth through preschool.



Grow NJ Kids Training Services is a collaborative effort between the Institute for Families and the New Jersey Departments of Human Services, Health, Education, and Children and Families to manage and coordinate professional development for the early child care workforce.



The first three years of a child's life can create a foundation for well-being and learning that is either fragile or strong. Brain development is exceptionally rapid, as synapses are formed at a rate higher than any other time in life. Social and emotional connections are shaped that will influence attachment throughout the childhood years, and the building blocks of language and literacy are established to set the stage for lifelong learning. Early childhood caregivers have the ability to nurture and support infants, toddlers, and preschoolers through these most significant periods of cognitive, emotional, and physical development.



Young children depend on skilled, knowledgeable caregivers to foster healthy growth and development. In New Jersey, more than 330,000 children under the age of five spend time in a professional care setting each day. Our early care and education providers deserve a professional development program that promotes their important work in the classroom and provides them with best practices and concrete tools to prepare these healthy young learners for school.

Research shows that children who are in quality child care and early learning programs are more prepared for kindergarten and have better reading skills, broader math skills, and larger vocabularies.

More information about the Office of Child Welfare Workforce Advancement within the Institute for Families at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey can be found by visiting <http://socialwork.rutgers.edu/InstituteForFamilies>.

Grow NJ Kids Training Services coordinates a wide array of in-person and online training courses that guide professionals in applying evidence-based classroom curricula, utilizing environmental rating scales, and fostering developmental milestones for children in their care. Our team coordinates education around:

- Teaching Strategies: Creative Curriculum® and GOLD® Assessments
- HighScope: HighScope® Preschool and Infant/Toddler Curriculum & COR® Assessments
- Let's Move! Child Care
- Strengthening Families: Bringing the Protective Factors to Families
- Tools of the Mind
- Program Administration Scale (PAS)
- Classroom Assessment Scoring System™ (CLASS)
- Environmental Rating Scales: ITERS-R, ECERS-3, and FCCERS
- Ages and Stages Questionnaires™ (ASQ-3)
- Early Childhood Physical Activity
- Many other topics related to child care and early learning experiences



The skilled instructors for **Grow NJ Kids Training Services** facilitate classroom-based education following established national curricula to meet the professional development needs of providers—including directors, teachers, assistant teachers, aides, and support staff. Classes build skills and knowledge needed to implement the state's emerging quality rating system and work successfully to raise the quality of child care and early learning programs in New Jersey. To learn more about Grow NJ Kids, please visit <http://www.GrowNJKids.com>.



Our logistics team is continuously working to coordinate training sessions throughout the state so that all Grow NJ Kids program participants have access to a variety of course offerings. Scheduling projections are made up to six months in advance to accommodate as many locations as possible, and additional trainings are commonly added as demand increases. Grow NJ Kids Training Services staff also provide training support to ensure participants experience a high-quality learning session.

Email GrowNJKids@ssw.rutgers.edu to inquire about scheduling and training availability.