

# Child Care & Early Education RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

## Quality Improvement in Home-Based Child Care Settings: Research Resources to Inform Policy

Many young children – particularly infants and toddlers, children of immigrant families and those in families of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and children whose parents work non-traditional schedules – receive some or all of their non-parental care in home-based settings. [Estimates from the National Survey of Early Care and Education](#) are that over 7 million children up to the age of 5 who are not yet in kindergarten receive some regular care from over 3.7 million home-based providers. [This includes](#) children whose only or primary caregiving arrangement is in a home-based setting as well as those with multiple care arrangements that regularly include home-based care.

There is [tremendous variability](#) in home-based settings, which include care provided in the home of the child as well as in the home of the caregiver; with caregivers who are related to the families, very often grandmothers caring for their grandchildren, and with non-relative caregivers; by caregivers who are paid and those who are not; in settings and by providers who are licensed, regulated, registered, and/or monitored by state agencies and those that are not. [Terms that are often used](#) to describe some or all of these types of home-based child care include “family, friend, and neighbor care,” “informal care,” “family child care,” and “legally exempt child care.”

Early care and learning experiences are critical influences in the development and learning of young children and the quality of those experiences makes a difference, no matter what the age of the child or the type of setting or arrangement. Supporting quality improvement in home-based care presents particular challenges in identifying and engaging home-based child caregivers, particularly those who are not connected with a public agency through subsidy payments or regulation, and in developing and delivering accessible and relevant interventions that meet the needs, interests, and circumstances of the range of home-based providers.



This **Topic of Interest** provides a comprehensive list of research in the *Research Connections* collection that was published in 2005 or later addressing issues related to quality improvement specifically in home-based child care. The resources are grouped under the following headings:

- Overviews, Summaries, and Reviews of Quality Improvement Strategies & Interventions that Included Home-Based Child Care
- Evaluations of Specific Quality Improvement Strategies & Interventions that Included Home-Based Child Care
- Evaluations of QRIS Quality Improvement Interventions that Included Home-Based Child Care
- Measuring Quality in Home-Based Child Care Settings
- Factors Affecting Quality and Participation in Quality Improvement in Home-Based Child Care Settings
- Characteristics, Interests, Needs, Experiences, and Perspectives of Home-Based Child Care Providers
- Policy Issues and Options for Home-Based Child Care

### **Overviews, Summaries, and Reviews of Quality Improvement Strategies & Interventions that Included Home-Based Child Care**

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### **Factors Affecting Quality and Participation in Quality Improvement in Home-Based Child Care Settings**

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## **Characteristics, Interests, Needs, Experiences, and Perspectives of Home-Based Child Care Providers**

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