We Grow Together

Use of Technology to Support Early Care and Education Professional Development
Overview

/ Key findings from literature
/ Description of We Grow Together
/ Initial findings about technology use
Technology and professional development (PD)
We Grow Together (WGT)

- PD system for caregivers working with infants and toddlers in center-based care and family child care homes.
- Relationship-based coaching from a trained local PD provider.
- Access to easy-to-use online tools.
Quality of Caregiver-Child Interactions for Infants and Toddlers (Q-CCIIT) observational tool

The Q-CCIIT observational tool focuses on high quality caregiver-child interactions that support

• Social-emotional development
• Language and literacy
• Cognitive development
Key components of WGT

**PD Provider Tools**
- PD Provider's Guide
- Training Modules
- Recorded Webinars
- Reflective exercises
- Discussion board

**Caregiver Tools**
- Presentations
- Videos
- Reflective exercises
- Classroom resources
- Discussion board

We Grow Together website

Q-CCIT observational measure results

Trained PD Provider

Caregiver

Mathematica

OPRE
We Grow Together

Modules

Introductory Materials for Caregivers
Both Caregivers and PD Providers

Support Social-Emotional Development: Caregiver-Child Relationships
Both Caregivers and PD Providers
Module 1: Support Social-Emotional Development: Caregiver-Child Relationships

Support Children's Language Use
Both Caregivers and PD Providers
Module 2: Support Children's Language Use

Support Children's Understanding of Language
Both Caregivers and PD Providers
Module 3: Support Children's Understanding of Language
Key practices
Tools

- Narrated presentations
- Handouts for colleagues and families
- Step-by-step guides and checklists
- Videos of caregivers implementing key practices
- Activities and self reflection exercises
- Classroom supports
- Role plays
- Progress checklists/graphs
- Links to additional resources
Implementation

- Learn about the website
- PD provider and caregiver meet
- Use WGT
2018-2019 WGT field test participants

• Analytic sample included 271 caregivers and 168 PD providers:
  • 89 Early Head Start center-based pairs
  • 125 community center-based pairs
  • 57 family child care pairs

• Purposive sampling to obtain diversity in setting types in 10 different geographic areas
2018-2019 WGT field test

• 4 months of WGT implementation

• Data collection was before, during, and after WGT implementation.
  • Q-CCIIT observations (fall and spring)
  • Surveys (fall and spring)
  • Web-analytics and implementation data (during implementation)
WGT orientation and supports

- Remote PD provider training
- Website navigation video and printable instructions
- Technical assistance: Phone, Email, Office Hours
- PD provider implementation webinars
- Online discussion boards
- For the field test, iPads
Technology related findings
# How caregivers accessed WGT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access Method</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Logged in at least once</td>
<td>93.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly at work</td>
<td>45.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly at home</td>
<td>46.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used iPad from study</td>
<td>74.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used Wi-Fi</td>
<td>81.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used cellular service</td>
<td>30.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No reliable web access</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WGT website analytics</td>
<td>Caregiver survey responses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Caregivers spent an average of 3.9 hours on the WGT website.

Source: WGT website analytics
Technical assistance inquiries

• Initial challenges accessing WGT’s technological components

• Caregivers report devices and materials were easy to use and navigate once they logged in
Caregivers gave the website high marks

- **WGT website**: mean rating of 5.2 out of 6.0

  🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟

- **Survey responses:**
  - Easy to learn to use (97.2 percent)
  - Easy to use (96.0 percent)
  - Easy to find the information needed (98.8 percent)
Nearly all caregivers video-recorded themselves

- 93 percent of caregivers video-recorded themselves
- 72 percent of caregivers reported it was easy to use the tablets
- 91 percent of PD providers reported observing caregivers
Comfort with technology related to satisfaction with WGT

Caregivers who reported greater comfort with technology (fall 2018 survey), had the following responses in spring 2019:

• Reported finding it easier to use the iPad to record practice
• Tended to have greater satisfaction with the WGT website
• Tended to more strongly agree that the WGT practices were helpful for children’s progress
• Tended to more strongly agree that the WGT activities were useful
Contact Us

**Mathematica:**
Shannon Monahan: SMonahan@mathematica-mpr.com
Sally Atkins-Burnett SAtkins-Burnett@mathematica-mpr.com
Louisa Tarullo: LTarullo@mathematica-mpr.com

**ACF:**
Ann Rivera Ann.Rivera@ACF.HHS.gov
Jenessa Malin Jenessa.Malin@ACF.HHS.gov