Making the Most of Connections:
Illinois License-Exempt Providers’ Use of Information About Early Childhood Education and Care

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March 2005
Making the Most of Connections

A descriptive study using both qualitative and quantitative data to assess Illinois license-exempt child care providers’ knowledge and use of information resources about early childhood education and care.
Research Objectives

- Describe the **communication channels** that Illinois license-exempt child care providers do and would prefer to use for seeking resources to inform their caregiving practices.

- Identify **communication technologies** which hold promise as a means of connecting providers with information to enhance their practice.
Research Question One

- How do Illinois license-exempt child care providers describe their knowledge of available information resources about early childhood education and care?
Research Question Two

- What communication channels do Illinois license-exempt child care providers utilize to seek and acquire information about early childhood education and care?
Research Question Three

• What communication technologies do Illinois license-exempt child care providers currently utilize on a regular basis?
Data Sources

Illinois license-exempt child care providers who receive state-administered Child Care Development Fund subsidy funds for the services they provide.
Research Sites

- North and South Lawndale neighborhoods of Chicago
- Peoria County
- The “Southern Seven”
  Alexander, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, and Union Counties
Methods – Phase One

Key Informant Interviews

- **Open-ended questionnaire** administered to 30 license-exempt providers regarding the sources they use to acquire information about their caregiving practices.

*Emergent themes will inform the design of another survey instrument for Phase Two.*
Methods – Phase Two

Provider Survey

- **Semi-structured survey** administered to Illinois license-exempt providers about their access to and current use of technology.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase One Project Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 2004 - September 2005</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview Instrument Design and Validation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone Interviews with Key Informants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase One Data Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Begin Design of Phase Two Survey Instrument</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Phase Two Project Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October 2005 - September 2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Survey Instrument Validation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administer Provider Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Two Data Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summative Analysis and Dissemination of Findings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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