



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!



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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