



National Indian Child Care Association

2016 Annual Report

P.O. Box 2146, Tahlequah, OK 74465

www.nicca.us



Legislative Impacts

Throughout FY2016, NICCA worked to improve access and opportunities for Tribal children and families and increase funding for Tribal CCDF programs. Highlights include:

- Securing an increase of 0.75% in discretionary funding;
- Providing input in the proposed Tribal early education integration act;
- Supporting the recognition of child care licensing regulations by CACFP state agencies;
- Supporting the recognition of cultural foods of Tribes by CACFP; and
- Providing comments, feedback, and input on the CCDF regulations, specifically as they relate to Tribal programs.

Membership

In FY2016, NICCA has the following membership:

- 32 Tribal CCDF Grantee members
- 5 Associate members

New Partners

NICCA continued to build upon their relationship network and partnerships throughout FY2016. Specifically, NICCA developed working relationships with:

- Child Care Aware - a reciprocal relationship that supports NICCA's advocacy efforts as well as promoting teacher development
 - Child Care Exchange - a formal relationship that provides for NICCA to share the Exchange magazine and resources with NICCA members
 - National Indian Head Start Directors Association- a formal relationship that supports advocacy efforts on early child education and development
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2016 NICCA Play Institute – June 2016

The 2016 National Indian Child Care Association Play Institute was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at the Doubletree Hotel by Hilton at Warren Place. The training was led by Toni and Robin Christie from the Childspace Early Childhood Institute in Wellington, New Zealand. The professional development training was targeted towards teachers and child care providers and focused on the importance of uninterrupted play and how it helps children learn to self-regulate. The training was also useful for directors and administrators for gathering resources and strategies to share with their programs.

The Play Institute's learning objectives were:

- To better understand the importance of uninterrupted play for children;
- To be respectful of children and the time they spend engaged in play; and
- To support and encourage self-regulation among children.

Highlights of the evaluation results reveal the following:

- Nearly 100% of the attendees felt that their knowledge was increased and they will be able to apply what they learned during the training.
- Nearly 100% of the attendees felt the presenters were very knowledgeable and clear.
- All comments about the training and the trainers was positive.
- Many attendees commented on the importance of protected spaces, using natural materials for play, and interacting with children more respectfully.
- Many attendees would like to incorporate more natural play spaces in their centers.
- Some attendees anticipated challenges in implementing these new ideas from licensing and regulations.

162 individuals registered for the training and 151 attended the training.

