



The Special Needs Childcare Subsidy, Inclusivity Training, and Caregiver Satisfaction with Childcare Services in Alabama

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Introduction

- The Special Needs Childcare Subsidy provides tuition assistance to the families of children with disabilities for childcare purposes. This survey examines the relationship between the Special Needs Childcare Subsidy, inclusivity training, and caregiver satisfaction with childcare services in Alabama
- Alabama does not require inclusivity training for childcare providers or directors in licensed childcare centers, regardless of whether the center is a recipient of the Special Needs Childcare Subsidy (SNCS) (Alabama Department of Human Resources, 2021).
- More parents of children with disabilities were dissatisfied with their occupational participation in childcare centers. Parents also found features and resources within the environment to be inadequate for their child's needs (Benjamin, et al., 2016).
- Caregivers desire a strong support system and community due to the lack of understanding between service providers, early childhood educators, and caregivers regarding their children's disabilities (Walters and Friesen, 2019).
- Childcare providers benefit from further training regarding disability education, service provider education, child-provider interactions, and inclusion of children with disabilities to increase their self-efficacy in providing care for children with disabilities (Bryant, 2018; Weglarz-Ward, Santos, & Hayslip 2019).

Methods

- Completed in collaboration with UCP Mobile's CCEP
- Survey-based research; Quantitative, investigator developed, web-based survey

Survey

- 4 Sections: Eligibility, Caregiver Demographics, Child Demographics, and Childcare and Subsidy Data

Participants

- 107 DHR Licensed Childcare Centers receiving SNCS
- 19 respondents accessed surveys
- 10 eligible and complete surveys analyzed

Inclusion Criteria

- SNCS Recipient
- ages 16-89 years
- Primary caregiver of a child with a disability currently enrolled in a DHR licensed childcare center

Results

Caregivers

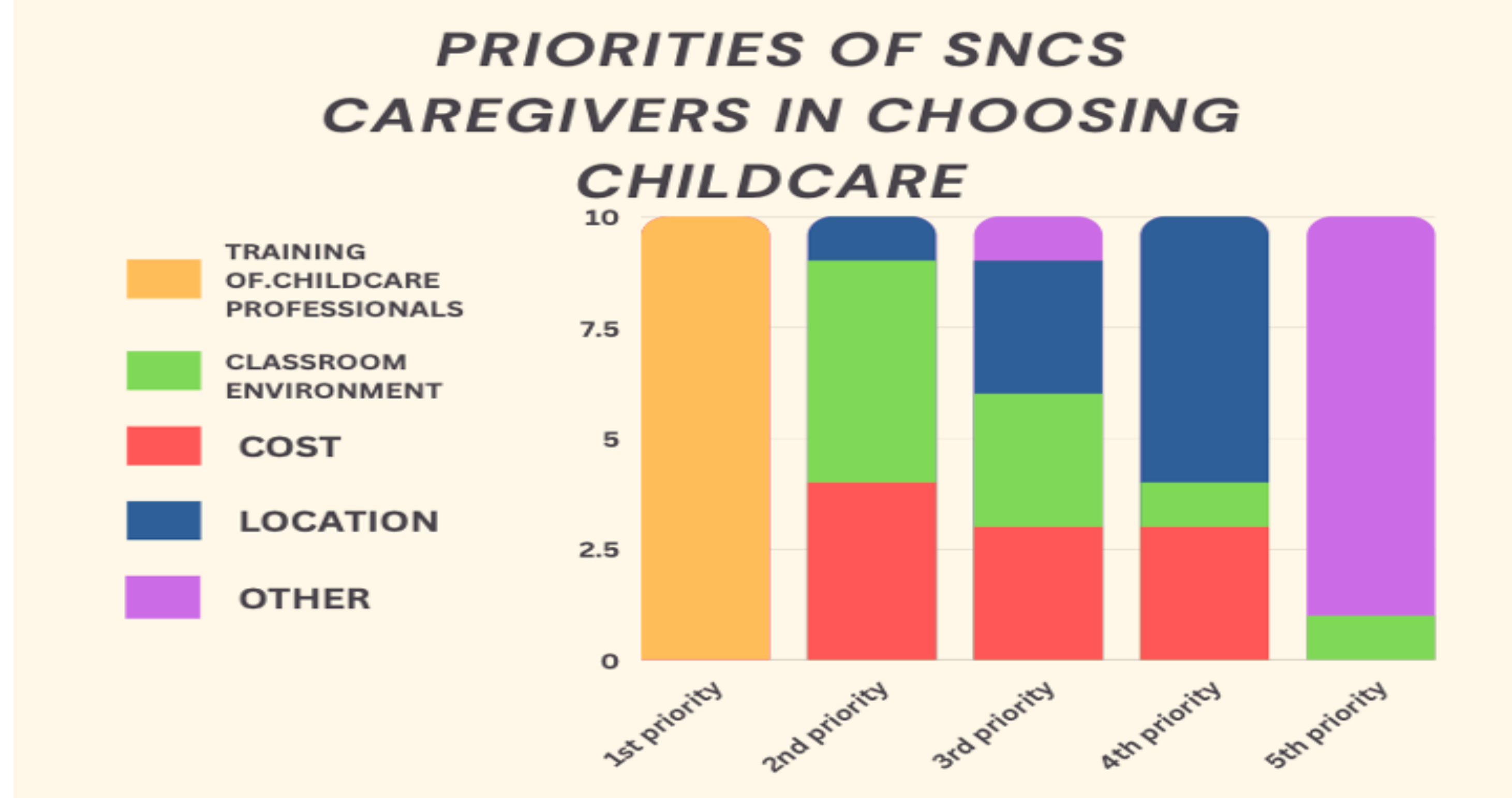
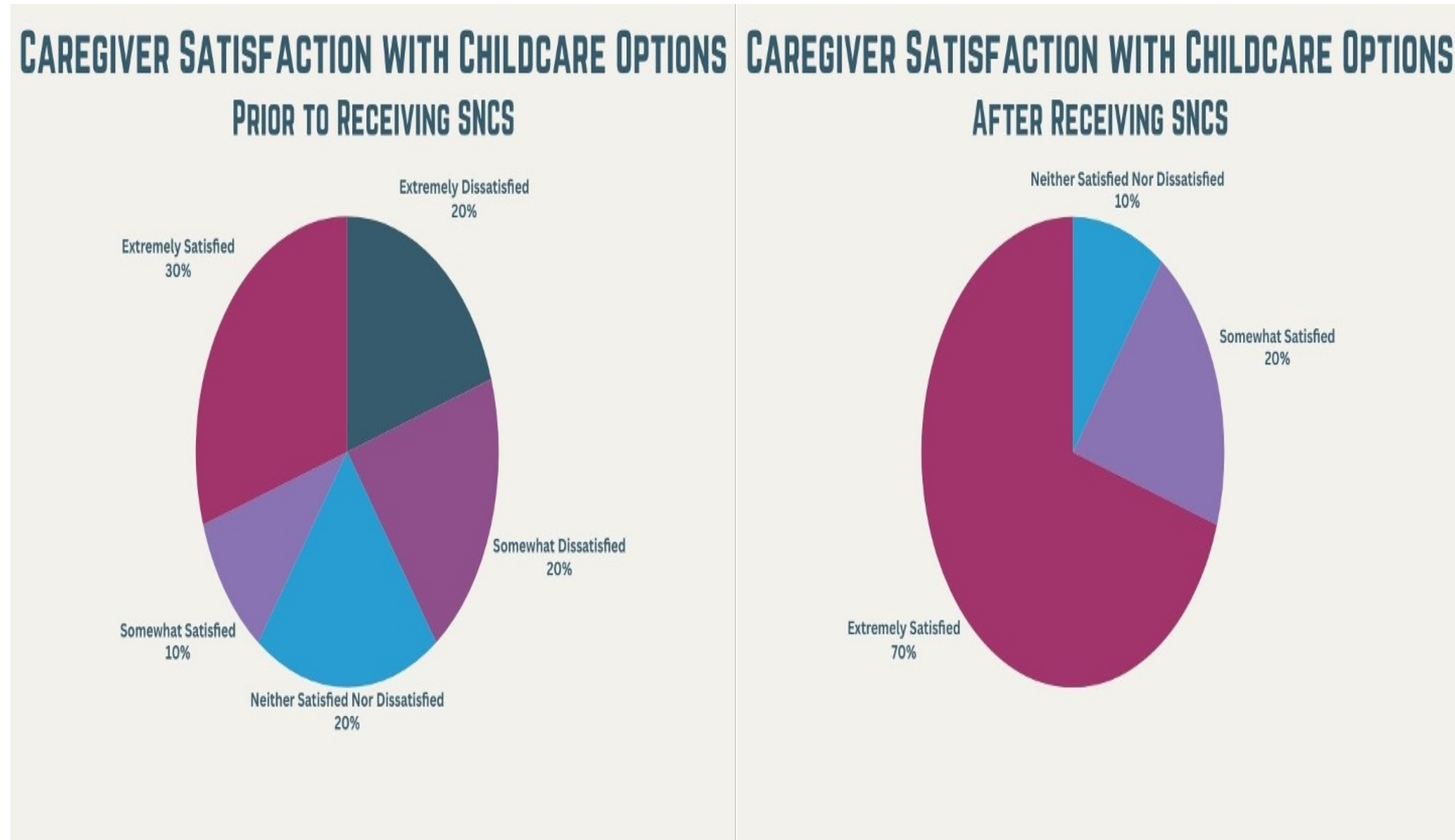
- 100% female
- 60% 35-44 years
- 40% \$50,000-74,999 AHI

Children

- 60% male; 40% female
- 50% 3-5 years; 40% 1-2 years; 10% <1 year

Childcare Satisfaction

- 60% increase in satisfaction post-receiving SNCS
- #1 priority of caregivers is training of childcare providers (100%)
- 80% of caregivers reported considering inclusivity training of providers when choosing a childcare center



Discussion

Survey Results

- Supports dissatisfaction with childcare procurement options experienced by the families of children with disabilities
- Supports caregivers supporting further inclusivity training for childcare providers
- Supports further research on childcare provider satisfaction with inclusivity training requirements

Limitations

- Small sample size
- Limited survey completion window
- Improved system for contact information and survey distribution to childcare providers and caregivers

Conclusion

Implications

- OTPs are in unique position to advocate for increased inclusivity training in childcare centers
- OTPs should practice transdisciplinary teamwork to avoid role confusion for childcare providers and caregivers (Weglarz-Ward, Santos, and Hayslip, 2019).

Future Research

- Relationship between poverty, childcare, disability, and inclusion
- Limited research on Inclusion in childcare environments and early childhood
- Relationship between caregiver burden and quality childcare

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