Inclusion Criteria

- 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, child care provider 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, regardless of whether the center is a recipient of SNCS.

- 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).

Caregivers

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

Children

- 65% male, 40% female
- 50% 3-5 years, 41% 1-2 years, 10% <1 year

Chilcare 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.

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

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

Acknowledgement & Contact information

The authors have no interests that might be perceived as representing any conflict or bias.

The authors thank Samantha Davidson and Melissa Anderson for advice on experimental design.

The authors thank United Cerebral Palsy of Mobile for their collaborative review efforts.

Contact Information: Please email Mackenzie Wilson at mfsteger@uab.edu for any questions or comments.