WHY FARM TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION?

According to the CDC, 1 IN 2 CHILDREN ages 1-5 do not eat a daily vegetable and 1 IN 3 CHILDREN ages 1-5 do not eat a daily fruit.

Farm to ECE INCREASES children’s consumption of fruits and vegetables by ONE DAILY SERVING.

Farm to ECE programs can INCREASE THE SUCCESS of Farm to School programs by DECREASING PLATE WASTE by as much as 66%.

Click here for a full list of Farm to Early Care and Education benefits.

THE NORTH CAROLINA FARM TO PRESCHOOL NETWORK HAS IMPACTED:

4,924 children
111 ECEs
593 ECE educators

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THE NETWORK’S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CREATED 7 online Farm to ECE TRAININGS, all of which provide educators with professional development credit from the state

ESTABLISHED local Farm to ECE COLLABORATIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HUBS to connect ECE programs with Cooperative Extension, Farmers, and local food producers

DEVELOPED NC Farm to ECE SURVEY, which collected information on current Farm to ECE practices from 666 ECEs in NC

SUPPORTED 46 ECEs with MINI GRANTS, with help from 19 ECE educator mentors

CREATED Farm to ECE INSTITUTE, learnings, and resources including Serving Local Foods in North Carolina Child Care Centers – Guidelines for Food Preparation and Servings

DEVELOPED NC Farm to ECE VIDEO SERIES to highlight success stories in Farm to ECE, including one Cherokee Nation ECE

PROMOTED Farm to ECE RESOURCES including Growing Minds Farm to Preschool Toolkit, Farm to Preschool Resource List, and Farm to Preschool Policy and Action Planner

DEVELOPED NC Farm to ECE SURVEY, which collected information on current Farm to ECE practices from 656 ECEs in NC

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“I love seeing children try new things and even [get] a thumbs up on the collards! That is amazing. (The FIG team’s) kind-heartedness of giving fresh vegetables has expanded from the center onto parents’ and employees’ tables, which speaks volumes (about) the work you are doing and the great opportunities this grant has allowed.”

— North Carolina ECE Educator

To learn more about Farm to ECE in North Carolina – click here!