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Examining Family Child Care Participation in Quality Rating and Improvement Systems

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Research Questions

✧ **What are licensed family child care perspectives on QRIS participation?**

  ✧ Why do non-participators choose not to engage in QRIS?

  ✧ Why do participators join?

  ✧ What benefits and challenges do participators experience?

Methods

- ◻ Nine focus groups across both states

- ◻ N=41(21 participators and 20 non-participators)

- ◻ Participants randomly selected stratified by geographic region (rural/urban)

- ◻ Verbatim transcriptions and analyzed using grounded theory methodology; Coded to consensus by two researchers.

Why Do Participators Join QRIS?

- ☐ Financial Resources

- ☐ Professional and personal growth

What Do Some FCC Providers Choose Not to Join?

- ◻ Agency Overload

- ◻ Unreasonable expectations and mandates

- ◻ No Clear Benefits

- ◻ Timing

What Benefits do Family Child Care Report from QRIS Participation?

- Professional Practice
  - Changes in Quality
  - Professionalism
 - Validation – outside entities and families

- QRIS Supports
  - Money and Resources
  - TA Support

What Challenges to FCC Report?

- ◻ "Going it Alone"

- ◻ Systems Issues

- ◻ QRIS Standards

Policy and Practice Recommendations

- Thoughts on increasing participation
  - Simple, clear messages via trusted and existing networks
  - Coordination of QRIS activities with other relevant state/regional services (licensing, USDA, existing TA networks)
  - Giving providers some choice/control
- Thoughts on maintaining engagement
  - QRIS as a means for building the professional identities of family child care providers
  - Clear and visible links between QRIS

  Participation and QI support
  - Financial incentives can be helpful
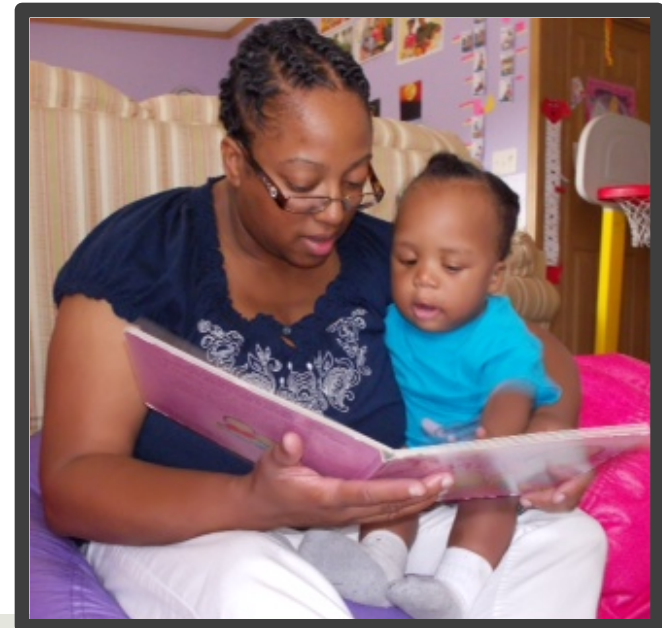
Discussion

- Research Focus: What are the differences and similarities among FCC providers you research or include in your QI?

- Practice/Policy Focus: How can we better align QI ACROSS PROGRAMS with FCC provider characteristics? What else do we need to know to be more effective in this alignment?