

Farm to Early Care and Education

Georgia's Early Care and Education (ECE) programs serve more than **330,000 children**, many of whom may consume **1-3 meals** and **2 snacks** a day onsite.¹

Why Farm to Early Care and Education?

Research shows Farm to School initiatives improve children's health and nutrition.² Most of these programs start in K-12 schools, but children can be reached earlier with Farm to Early Care and Education (FTECE).

Top Reasons Providers Choose to Participate in FTECE

- Teach children where food comes from and how it is grown
- Improve child health
- Provide children with experiential learning

STRATEGIES THAT WORK



Parent education and engagement³



Meal planning and preparation⁴



Curriculum where kids touch and taste food⁵



Gardening with kids⁶



Fruit and vegetable boxes for home consumption⁷

FTECE SUPPORTS

- Fruit and vegetable consumption, some of which may increase vitamin A, C, and E intake⁸
- Healthy food consumption at home⁹
- Willingness to try new foods¹⁰
- Development of motor skills¹¹
- Fosters life skills, social skills, and self-esteem¹²
- Promotes physical activity¹³
- Reduced diet-related diseases among children¹⁴
- Reduced food waste



FTECE and Agriculture

FTECE benefits children, as well as **supports Georgia farmers**. FTECE encourages childcare providers to:



Purchase and serve fresh, nutritious, local foods for their children



Host on-site farmers markets for parents and staff



Develop partnerships with local farms for experiential learning

VOICES RECOMMENDATIONS

- Allocate funding to reimburse ECE programs when meals incorporate local foods.
- Develop and fund a pilot for ECE providers to purchase larger quantities of food from local farmers.

Sources for Farm to Early Care and Education

- 1 Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government. "Economic Impact of the Early Care and Education Industry in Georgia" Accessed May 25, 2022. <http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/EconImpactReport.pdf>.
- 2 National Farm to School Network. "The Benefits of Farm to School." Accessed November 23, 2020. <http://www.farmtoschool.org/Resources/BenefitsFactSheet.pdf>.
- 3 Ibid
- 4 Ibid
- 5 National Farm to School Network. "Results from the 2015 National Survey of Early Care and Education Providers: Local Procurement, Gardening, and Food and Farm Education." Accessed November 23, 2020. https://assets.website-files.com/5c469df2395cd53c3d913b2d/6110460d61ddcbc94002c752_ECESurvey_Report-min.pdf.
- 6 Ibid
- 7 National Farm to School Network. "The Benefits of Farm to School." Accessed November 23, 2020. <http://www.farmtoschool.org/Resources/BenefitsFactSheet.pdf>
- 8 Ibid
- 9 Ibid
- 10 Ibid
- 11 Ibid
- 12 Ibid
- 13 National Farm to School Network. "Results from the 2015 National Survey of Early Care and Education Providers: Local Procurement, Gardening, and Food and Farm Education." Accessed November 23, 2020. http://www.farmto-school.org/Resources/ECESurvey_Report.pdf
- 14 National Farm to School Network. "The Benefits of Farm to School." Accessed November 23, 2020. <http://www.farmtoschool.org/Resources/BenefitsFactSheet.pdf>