

Early Childhood Initiatives Center's

nutrition trainings

Goals

1 Promote healthy, delicious and affordable meals in early childhood programs

2 Improve safe food practices

\$697
per training

Early Childhood
INITIATIVES CENTER

Nutritious meals, safe food practices, and education for children and families are the focal points of our training program.

A food must be offered to a child up to



15 times

before they accept it

25%

of 2-5 year olds in the U.S. are overweight or obese

61%

of Cooking Matter graduates are serving vegetables more often in their early childhood center

8%

of infants and children have food allergies

With your support, we will be able to ensure that the 27,000 children in our region are eating healthy, balanced diets in their early childhood environments.

nutrition matters

What We Do

and why it's important

Studies show that attendance for at least one year in a high-quality early childhood program results in:



Higher kindergarten readiness

Higher graduation rates



Higher lifetime earnings



Lower school remediation



Lower need for social services



Higher college attendance

The Helen R. Walton Children's Enrichment Center began as an effort to support working families in our region. After 35 years of being a part of our industry's evolution from daycare and child care to early childhood education, it is our responsibility to reach beyond our walls. It is time for all programs to collaborate and share knowledge, resources and best practices. It is time for early education to integrate with our community's strategic efforts for advancement, growth, and quality of life.

Growth of our region and its workforce begins with HIGH-QUALITY early childhood education. Northwest Arkansas' 27,000 children under the age of 5 will be tomorrow's leaders. They need a strong foundation for success.

When the ECIC opened, 19% of Northwest Arkansas centers were quality accredited. To date, that number has risen to 63%.

Our goal is for every center to be state quality accredited by reducing licensing violations, increasing teacher competencies, and supporting the advancement toward quality standards.

The ECIC is dedicated to moving the needle - be a part of the movement.