

Getting Started: Caring for Children and Youth with Disabilities

Training high school and college-age youth to work with children with disabilities

University of Cincinnati University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UC UCEDD)
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PURPOSE

To build a network of well-trained and qualified high school and college-age youth who are available to families of children and youth with developmental disabilities to provide natural support and informal respite within our communities.

1. BACKGROUND

- UC UCEDD Community Advisory Council expressed a need for trained babysitters for children and youth with developmental disabilities (DD)
- UCEDD staff confirmed lack of trained babysitter
- Parent-Professional Workgroup was established and guided development of family survey and curriculum

4. CURRICULUM

1. DD Basics
2. Interviewing with the Family
3. Observing the Child at Home
4. Caring for the Child with Family Present
5. Providing Care on Own
6. Resources

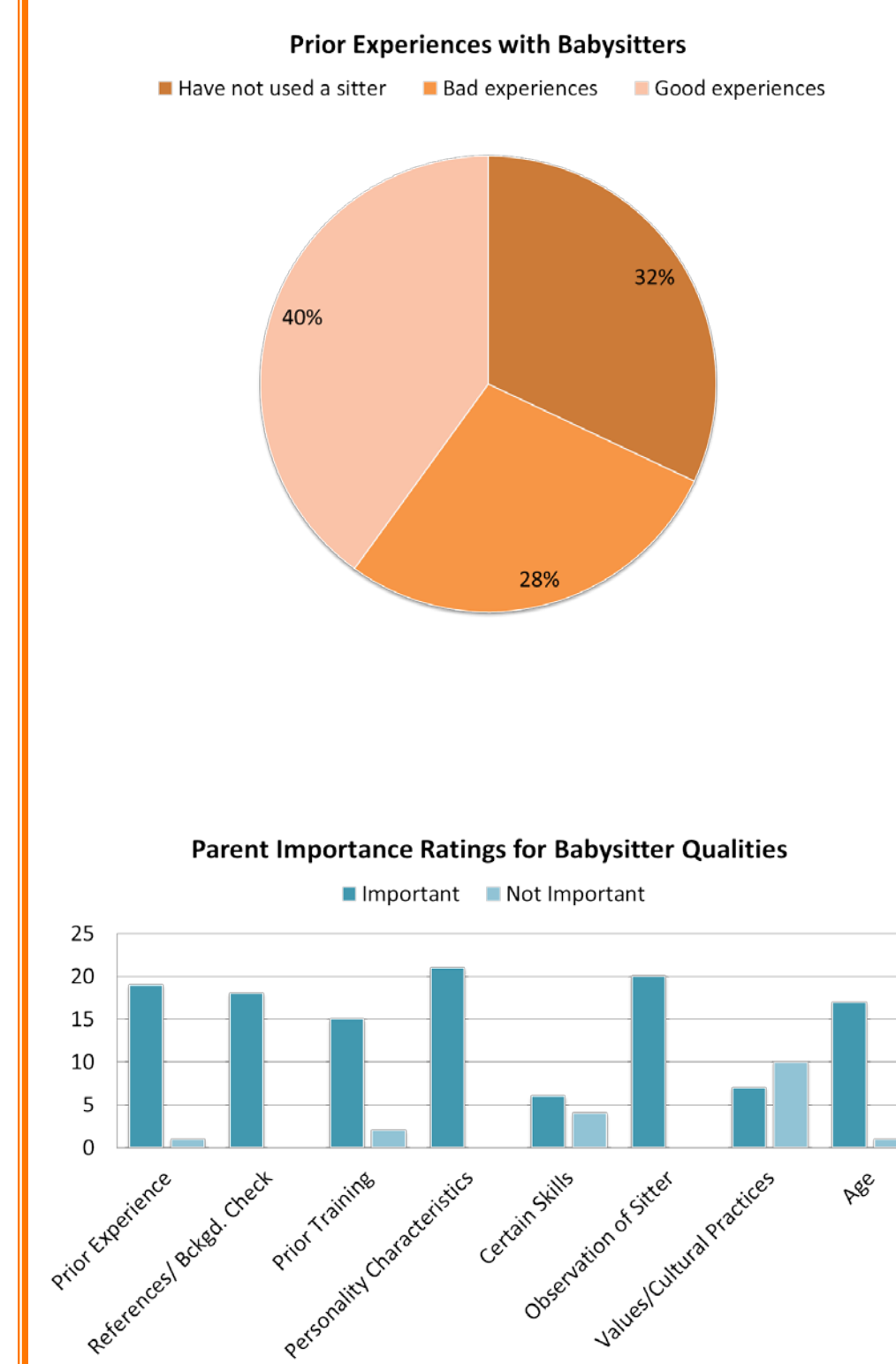
6. TRAINING COURSE

- Expands on manual context
- Includes background check
- Connects participants to infant/child CPR and first aid
- Multiple sessions utilizing varied learning modalities (e.g., videos, expert lecture, family panel and hands on experience)
- Offered yearly
- Two-hour weekly course for five weeks

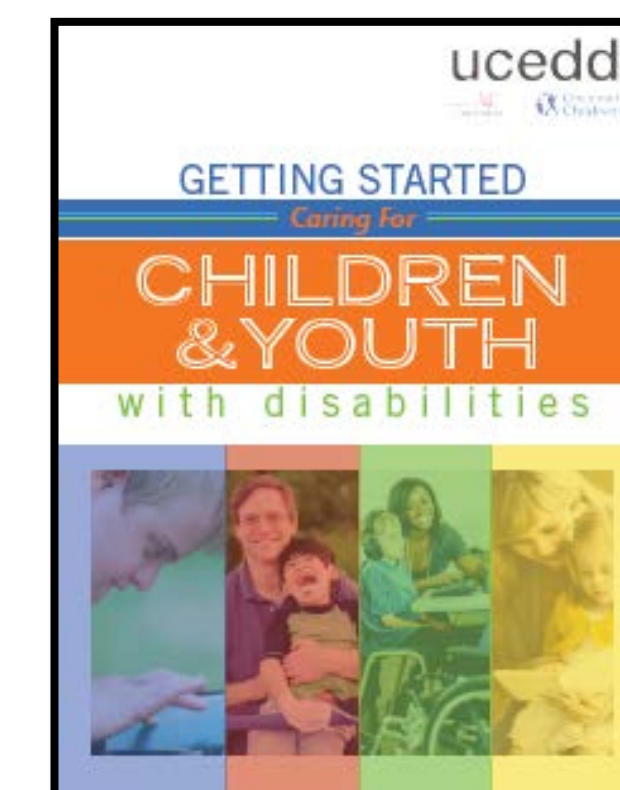
2. METHODS

- Electronic survey about experiences with babysitters and preferences was disseminated to local families of children and youth with DD
- Forty-one families representing a diverse group of children with DD responded
- Information provided a greater understanding of community needs and guided curriculum context.

3. SURVEY RESULTS



5. MANUAL



- Can be used stand alone or with a training course
- Style is targeted to high-school and early college aged consumer
- Manual is interactive to promote learning

7. Course Objectives

- Put the child first, not the disability. Learn who they are and what their needs dictate
- Use active listening to make the most of interviews and observation time
- Take cues from the family to manage behaviors, stay safe and have fun
- Be a leader in the community, advocating and education others about children who have DDs and their strengths



8. EVALUATION

1. Pre-course evaluation
2. Content area quizzes
3. Post-course evaluation
4. Satisfaction survey
5. Certificate of completion

9. NEXT STEPS

- Finalizing the curriculum and launching the training in Spring 2016.

Acknowledgements

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