Elevate Maine/Somerset
2020 Services & Outcomes

Providing high-quality early education and care for infants and toddlers
What is Elevate Maine/Somerset?
Elevate Maine/Somerset is a partnership between the Maine Early Learning Investment Group (MELIG) and Educare Central Maine (ECM).

Project Goals:
1. Elevate the quality of instructional practices in both Center-Based settings and Family Childcare homes.
2. Enhance family engagement and parent education to support their child’s learning and development.
3. Provide comprehensive child and family services including nutritional, oral, mental, and physical health.
4. Gather data and analyze child-parent-family progress and provider/teacher quality improvement.
5. Expand local and statewide awareness of the importance of quality early care and education.

The Elevate Maine/Somerset mission is to ensure that program participants arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed.

Service Area
With the highest number of child risk factors in the state, the greater Skowhegan area and Somerset county have been selected as Elevate Maine/Somerset’s premiere location (2015).

Child Outcomes

113* children have participated in the Elevate Maine/Somerset evaluation.

Initial data indicates increases in initiative, self-regulation, and/or attachment/relationships demonstrating reduced negative behaviors and positive social/emotional well-being; children with disabilities are closing the gap toward age appropriate scores of their typically developing peers; and children grew in all domains, meeting 5 of 6 in just six months.

*170 children impacted in Provider settings

Supporting Families

Family engagement is a cornerstone of the success of this Project. Focusing on the whole child means involving the family and meeting children’s health needs as well as supporting child development and early learning.

100% of families received health and parent education.

Key Program Design Features
- Weekly Provider visits for coaching/mentoring
- Enhanced funding for environments, resources, and supplies
- Parent engagement and education
- Professional learning communities and networking with other providers
- Program evaluation to gather data and support increased child outcomes

Investing in Early Education and Care
The cumulative lifetime fiscal savings and tax benefit to government is estimated to be 4.8 times greater than the initial cost.*

*Path to a Better Future, Philip Trostel, University of Maine School of Economics Professor. Visit educarecentralmaine.org to view the report.

Provider Outcomes

The FCCERS-R scale assesses family childcare programs on a variety of items, including physical space, materials and activities offered, and interactions. Elevate Maine/Somerset Providers have increased the overall average score since the beginning of the Project, with more notable gains in the areas of ‘Activities’ and ‘Listening and Talking’.
Elevate Maine/Somerset is an on-the-ground, rural, replicable model in the greater Skowhegan area that demonstrates a coordinated birth-to-kindergarten-entry quality early care and education system.

It is a strategic public/private partnership with rural family childcare and center-based programs designed to elevate instructional practices; increase family engagement; provide comprehensive services (nutrition, oral, mental and physical health education and resources), utilizing evidence-based evaluation to measure progress and attainment of quality benchmarks for children, families and early educators.

The Elevate Maine/Somerset project goal is to fundamentally change Maine’s early childhood education delivery system by demonstrating the impact of investing in high quality early childhood education from birth.

The full report can be viewed here.

For more information please contact:
Sarah Lavallee, Early Head Start Program Director
Kennebec Valley Community Action Program
(207) 859-1615
sarahl@kvcap.org