



SNAPSHOT:

FARM TO PRESCHOOL

2012

RESULTS from a NATIONAL SURVEY

494 managers, directors, administrators, teachers, food service coordinators, and partner organizations of early care and education programs across the United States serving at least 163,450 young children filled out our survey.

We asked:

What FARM to PRESCHOOL activities are you engaged in?
What are your CHALLENGES and OPPORTUNITIES? What support do you need?

WHAT IS FARM TO PRESCHOOL?

IT'S ABOUT CONNECTING YOUNG children (ages 0-6) WITH LOCAL FOODS! FARM to PRESCHOOL includes ANY TYPE of CHILD CARE that INCORPORATES LOCAL FOODS through: MEALS & SNACKS, TASTE TESTS, lessons, FARMER VISITS, COOKING, FIELD TRIPS, Growing food, OR COMMUNITY and PARENT ENGAGEMENT.



"WE TAUGHT CHILDREN ABOUT LOCAL
TRADITIONAL WAYS OF PRESERVING FRESH PRODUCE"

TRIBAL PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

LETTERING by Mary Kate McDavitt



SURVEY RESPONDENTS SAID:

- **DEMOGRAPHICS:** over HALF describe their location as RURAL
- **PROGRAM LENGTH:** Almost HALF have been doing Farm to PRESCHOOL 3+ Years
- **PROGRAM MODEL:** child care center (42%) Head start/Early start (20%) Private Preschool (17%)

WHAT are your MOST COMMON ACTIVITIES?

- 87% teach children about where FOOD comes from and how it's GROWN
- 79% serve meals or snacks with at least SOME LOCAL FOOD
- 78% Plant or work with children in EDIBLE GARDENS
- > 50% give families INFORMATION about locally GROWN food

HOW do you INCORPORATE local FOODS?

- 72% in LESSONS
- 69% as SNACKS
- 66% as MEAL INGREDIENTS

FUNDS

- 33% SEE cost as a GREAT concern
- > 50% have not received external funding for FARM to PRESCHOOL activities

TOP 3 things FUNDS are MOST needed FOR:

- LOCAL food PURCHASES • SCHOOL gardens • CURRICULUM and staff training

TOP 5 ways PROGRAMS need SUPPORT

- GRANT funding / FINANCIAL assistance
- Supplies to get STARTED (CURRICULUM, RECIPES, COOKING EQUIPMENT)
- List of LOCAL FARMERS or distributors to CONNECT with
- TRAINING / professional DEVELOPMENT opportunities
- EXAMPLES of POLICIES and PROCEDURES

THIS REPRESENTS A SMALL SLICE OF OUR FINDINGS. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED.

LEARN MORE: www.farmtopreschool.org

SURVEY CONDUCTED IN JUNE 2012 BY THE FARM to PRESCHOOL SUBCOMMITTEE of THE NATIONAL FARM to SCHOOL NETWORK