



## Child Care Professionals Focus Group Results: Alabama



### Teacher vs. Provider

Focus group participants preferred “educator” and “teacher” to describe the workforce.



### Nutrition

Many agreed with the parts of the message that suggest that teachers/educators are role models; this phrasing makes them want to do better for themselves. The group agreed that having higher standards would help children in child care eat healthier foods.



There was some concern that not all children would eat healthy food, but all participants felt it is important to provide healthy food anyway. The group also agreed that it is not just child care teachers who are important in influencing nutrition; rather children should have access to healthy foods at home and in child care.

### Active Play

Most agreed with the message that educators are role models for active play and healthy activities. Participants noted children love to be active and many of the participants’ colleagues should work harder to be fit and to keep up with the children.



### Screen Time

Participants in Alabama embraced screen time as a valuable educational tool, noting that they incorporate screen time into lesson plans and use educational software available in their center library. Participants said it is important to introduce young children to screen time so they are not behind when they enter school (where technology use is becoming more and more prominent). They emphasized that screen time needs to be educational, limited and supervised.

