

Dawson County

Rooted in Relationships Snapshot Report 2017

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

RIR embraces a systems approach to enhance the social-emotional development of Nebraska's young children.

Rooted in Relationships (RIR) is an initiative that partners with communities to implement evidence-based practices that enhance the social-emotional development of children, birth through age 8. RIR supports communities to implement the *Pyramid Model*, a framework of evidence-based practices that promote the social, emotional, and behavioral competence of young children in selected family child care homes and child care centers. In addition, each community establishes a multi-disciplinary stakeholder team charged with developing and implementing a long-range plan to influence the early childhood systems of care and support the healthy social-emotional development of children. This snapshot report describes the RIR implementation in Dawson County.

Supporting Community Early Childhood Systems of Care

Parent Engagement

Dawson County began implementing the RIR initiative in 2014. This year they continued to focus their systems work on increasing parent engagement in community activities and broadening understanding of the importance of social emotional development. A previous needs assessment found that parents were interested in participating in parenting activities, specifically those that include fun activities with their children or a series of classes that were delivered in a convenient location at low or no cost. This year, Dawson County RIR identified several community events for parents and focused on providing social-emotional content at these events.

In addition, backpacks and social-emotional materials were purchased for each of the six libraries in the county. Each library received five backpacks for families to check out with topics including social-emotional development for babies, following expectations, problem solving, emotions, and anger management. Parenting information was included in each backpack and many of the materials were in both English and Spanish.

"The group really supported each other and created a good support system."

A COS-P facilitator



Circle of Security™-Parenting: Dawson County RIR continued to support COS-P classes as a parent engagement strategy. During this year, the group sponsored seven classes.

Public Awareness

The Dawson County RIR stakeholder team sponsored seven activities to promote awareness of parent engagement and social-emotional needs of children. All were well attended by community families and social emotional materials were distributed. These included celebrations for the Week of the Young Child, family fairs, and other community events (e.g., United by Culture and Lights Out Lexington). These events were sponsored in collaboration with multiple community partners. A Facebook page was established and had 176 posts in the last year and successfully reached over 12,000 individuals. In 2017, a video was produced to highlight both Pyramid and community systems work specific to Dawson County. The video can be utilized to garner additional community support as well as recruit families and providers to engage in opportunities offered.

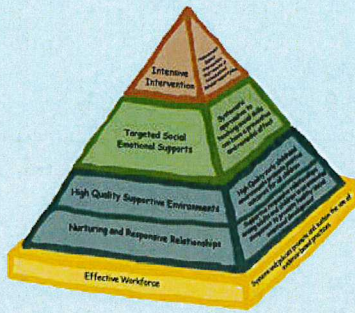
1,352 families and **children** participated in **7** community events to increase awareness of **parent engagement** and the **social-emotional needs of children.**



"A challenge was that I wanted one of the parents to start repairing her relationship with her son. At week 7, she shared how she was making connections and being in the circle. I was happy to hear this from the parent. "

A COS-P facilitator reflects on how the program impacted a parent

Pyramid Model Implementation



The Pyramid Model is a framework of evidence-based practices that promote social-emotional competence in young children and prevent and address challenging behaviors. The model is a promotion, prevention, and intervention framework built on the foundation of a high quality workforce.

About the Sites and Providers

In 2017, four coaches provided Pyramid Model training and implementation support to **9** providers in **7** child care sites. By June of 2018, the sites will have participated in RIR for three years.

71% of the sites were **center-based**
29% were **home-based**
100% of the sites and the providers were retained in RIR.

About the Children

Programs completed a demographic survey about **38** children they serve.

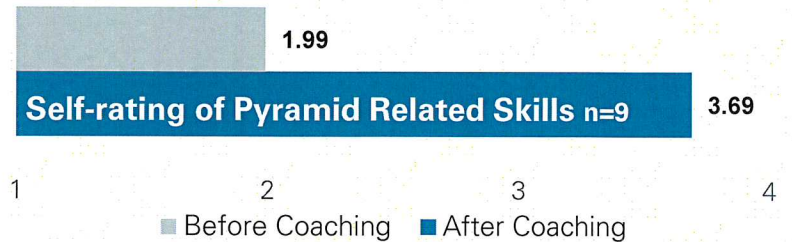
8% qualified for a state child care subsidy, an indicator of **family poverty**
0% spoke a primary **language other than English**

Parents completed the ASQ-SE to assess their child's social-emotional competencies

49 children had **ASQ-SE** results.
98% had **typical** social-emotional skills.

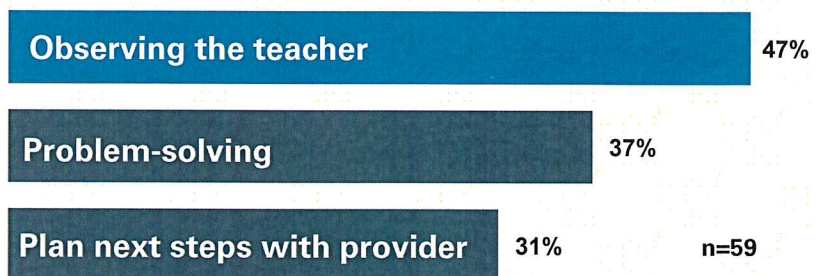
Coaching made a difference.

Providers received on the job support to help them implement Pyramid training. Providers reported an increase in their skills after participation in RIR.

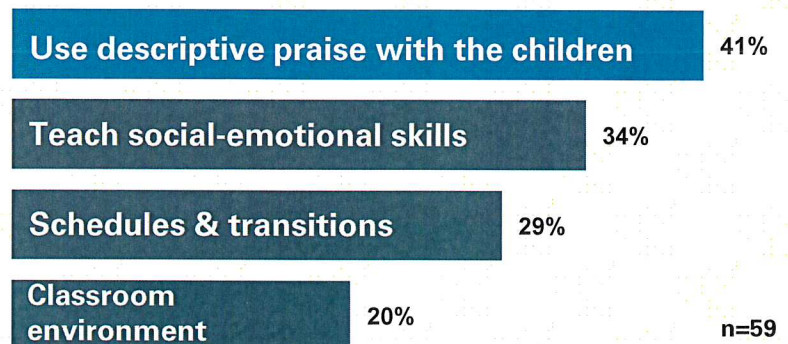


Survey is based on a 4 point likert scale. Not all providers completed the self-rating.

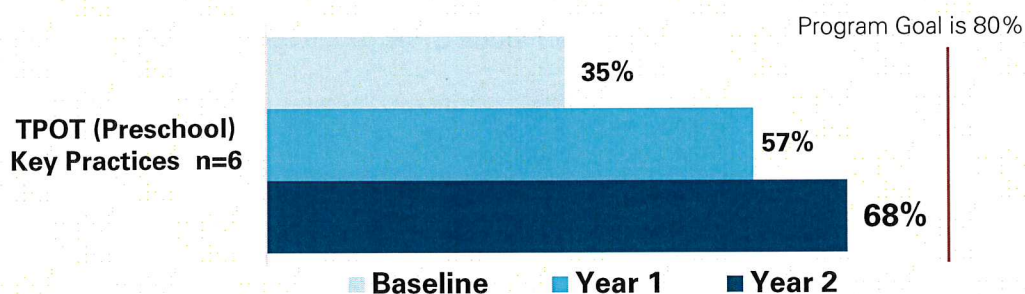
The most common coaching activity was observing the teacher in the classroom



Dodge County coaches most frequently helped providers increase their use of descriptive praise.



Classroom Pyramid practices improved with coaching and training.



Home-based providers increased their fidelity to the Pyramid Model each year of participation in RIR.

Home-based providers completed the Benchmarks of Quality (BOQ) assessment to measure their implementation of the Pyramid Model. To achieve fidelity, programs must implement 75% of the practices. Average scores on the BOQ are not reported due to the small sample size (n=2). However, the following highlights can be shared:

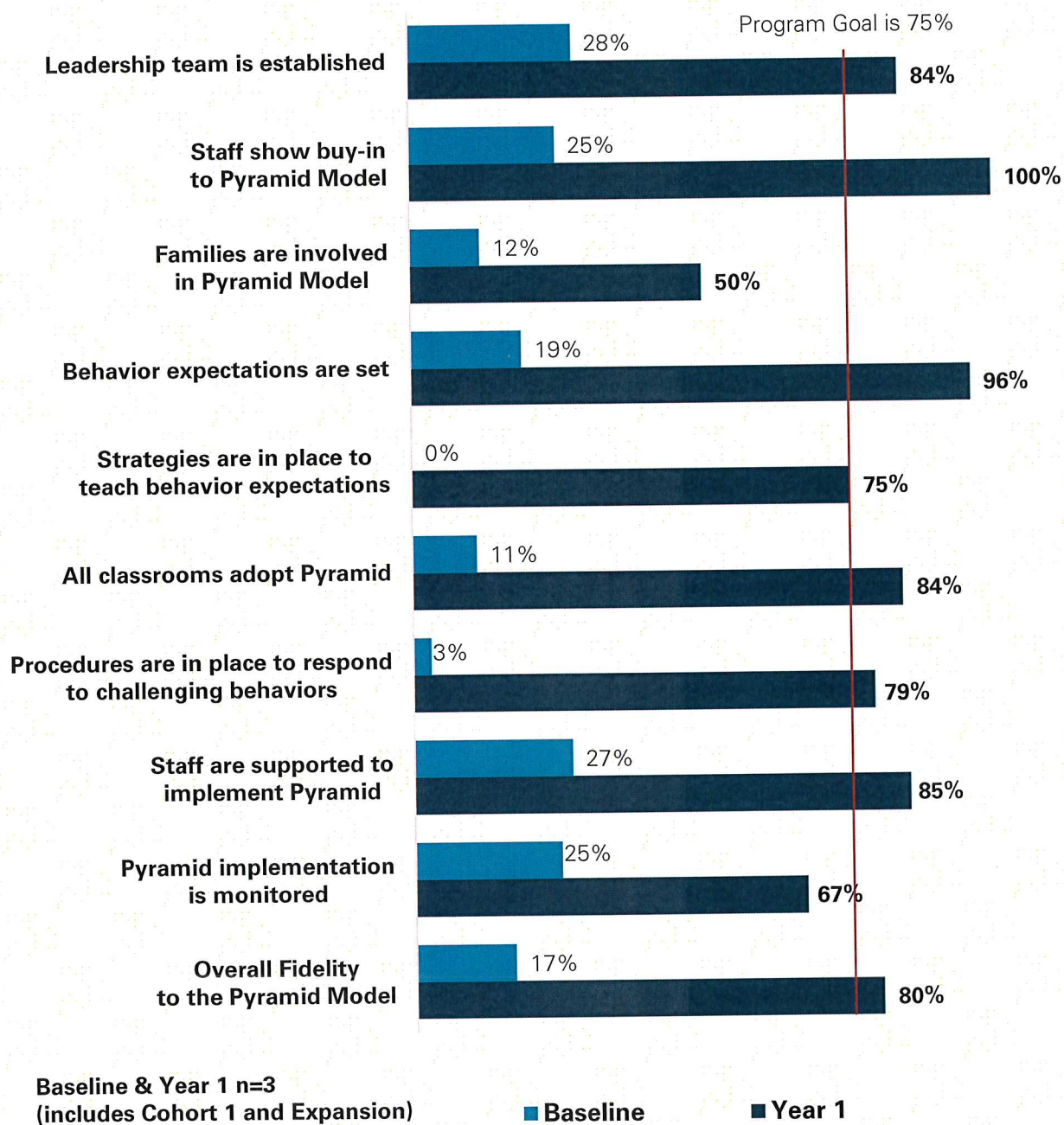
- **Both** of the sites met Overall fidelity after one year of participation in RIR.
- Program strengths include setting behavior expectations, strategies to teach behavior expectations, and adopting procedures to respond to challenging behavior.



"Before the Pyramid Model and coaching my room was chaos. Now the room is calmer and I have more coping skills than I used to and I have more confidence in myself as a teacher which reflects onto my students."

A provider reflects on RIR

Centers implementing the Pyramid Model center-wide increased fidelity. On average, they met the program goal in all but two areas after one year of coaching.



Each year, home-based providers increased their fidelity to the Pyramid Model. By Year 3, all providers met fidelity in all areas.

