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# Farm to ECE Learning Collaboratives

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# Agenda

- Welcome
- Present Newly Released Farm to ECE Learning Collaborative Materials
- How to Access the Materials
- Implementing Farm to ECE Learning Collaboratives in Indiana
- Questions

# Background

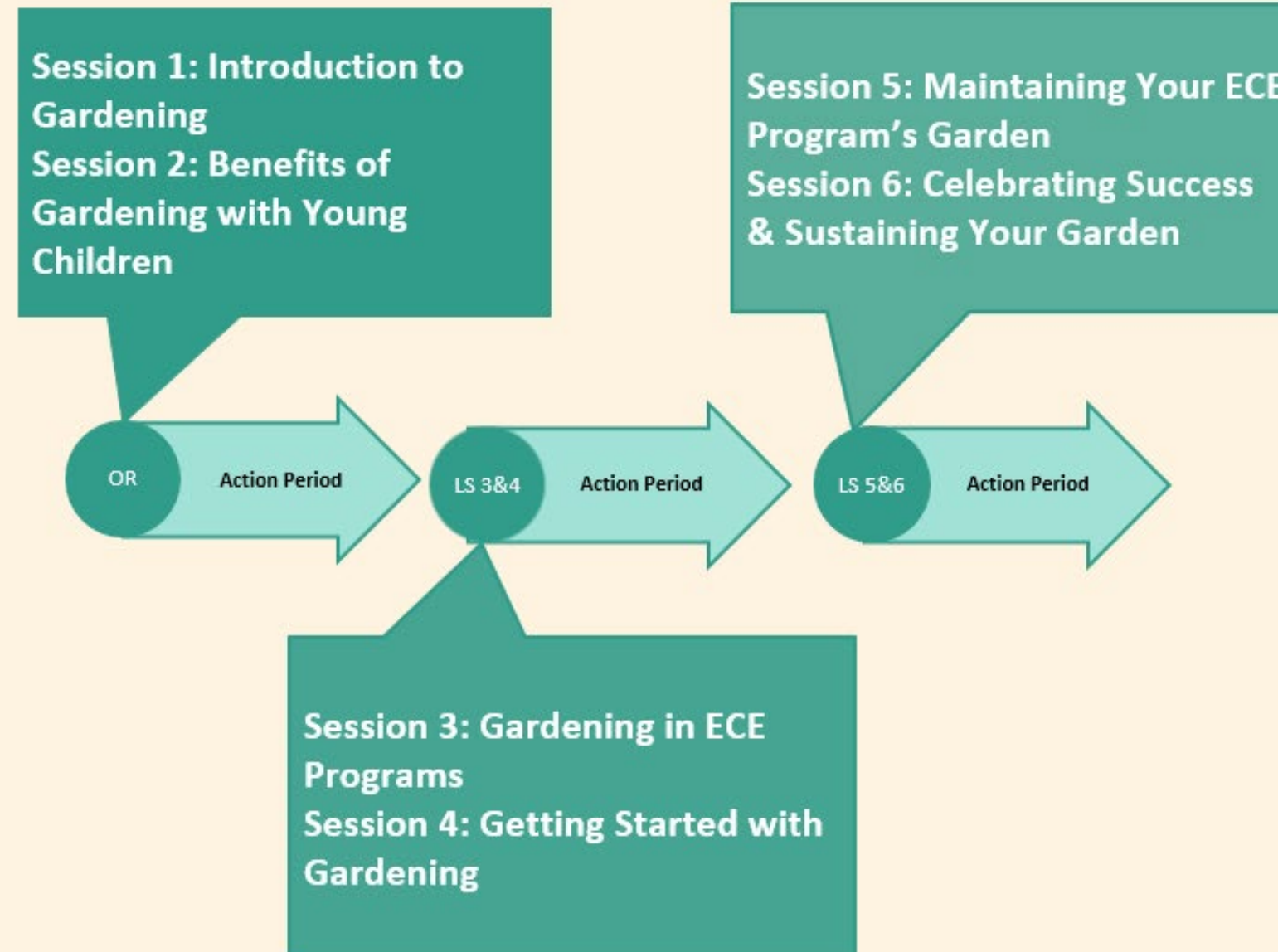
- Partnership began in 2023 to develop Farm to ECE learning collaborative materials
- 3 Learning Collaboratives
- Each Learning Collaborative had 15 participants
- Spark Learning Lab coaches deliver learning collaborative content virtually and provide technical assistance and coaching to ECE providers in Indiana.



# Farm to ECE Learning Collaboratives Overview

- Purpose
- Topics
- Framework
- Structure

## Gardening Learning Collaborative Structure





# Farm to ECE Learning Collaboratives Resources

# Facilitator Guides

## Facilitator Guide

### Engaging the Community

#### Identify and Collaborate with Community Stakeholders

Farm to ECE offers many opportunities to facilitate connections between ECE programs and the broader community. Prior to launching the Gardening Learning Collaborative, research community stakeholders who directly or indirectly provide gardening support to other organizations or entities. These organizations and contacts should know about your Learning Collaborative so they can offer services/support to the participants. These groups may also provide complementary resources or linkages to other initiatives.

Before starting the Gardening Learning Collaborative, consider hosting a planning meeting and invite ECE program staff, community members, and others that have gardening expertise. You can discuss the planning of Learning Collaboratives and what ECE programs need the most to install and maintain their ECE program garden. These organizations can be tapped for funding, in-kind support of supplies, trainers, resources, and/or guest speakers at Learning Sessions.

#### Farm to ECE Stakeholders

Below is a list of suggested stakeholders that may help you recruit and support ECE programs for your Learning Collaborative:

- Health departments, SNAP-Ed Local Implementing Agencies, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) chapters, pediatricians, and/or child health advisory groups
- Organizations working on nutrition, physical activity, and gardening initiatives targeting children/families
- Agencies that administer Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS), ECE subsidy programs, and professional development for child care providers
- Cooperative Extension Programs and Master Gardeners
- State licensing agency and/or local licensing offices
- Departments of Education, local school systems, state Pre-K office
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) state agency, sponsoring organizations
- Child Care Health Consultants (CCHCs) or the organization that oversee CCHCs
- Nonprofit organizations serving young children and families
- Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs) and other groups that provide training and TA to ECE providers
- Community colleges and universities with ECE related degree/certificate programs
- Local offices/branches or staff of any of these organizations
- Families of children in care
- ECE providers (FCCH and center-based)
- Local/regional/state child care associations



## Farm to Early Care and Education Learning Collaboratives: Gardening Facilitator Guide

May 2024

# Editable Timelines

## Local Foods, Healthy Kids Learning Collaborative

| Timeline and Objectives       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Orientation Session *optional | Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Learning Collaborative Orientation & Go NAPSACC Orientation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Program Assessments           | <b>ECE Program Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If this is the ECE Program's first Farm to ECE Learning Collaborative, they should complete the Go NAPSACC Farm to ECE self-assessment (dark green icon with shovel).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Learning Session 1            | Introduction to Local Foods                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Learning Session 2            | Sourcing Local Foods – What? When? Where? How?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Action Period 1               | <b>Coach Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Participation Agreement with participants.</li> <li>Review self-assessment results.</li> <li>Support programs to develop two Go NAPSACC Farm to ECE action plans related to Local Foods.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                               | <b>ECE Program Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First TA session.</li> <li>Inform teachers, staff, and families about ECE program's participation in the Learning Collaborative.</li> <li>Review self-assessment results.</li> <li>Work with teachers and staff to create 2 Go NAPSACC action plans related to Local Foods.</li> <li>Decide how program will keep track of progress and how successes will be documented for Storyboard.</li> </ul>                    |
| Learning Session 3            | Preparing Local Foods and Food Safety                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Learning Session 4            | Menu Planning with Local Foods                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Action Period 2               | <b>Coach Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide technical assistance.</li> <li>Check-in on strategies for completion of action plans.</li> <li>If programs have completed their first two action plans, collaborate on the creation of 2 additional Go NAPSACC action plans.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                               | <b>ECE Program Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work to reach goals with the help of the Tips &amp; Materials library and other resources.</li> <li>If programs have completed their first two action plans, collaborate on the creation of 2 additional Go NAPSACC action plans.</li> <li>Keep tracking program's progress and finalize program's Storyboard. Storyboards should be shared with Coaches before the "Celebrating Success" Learning Session.</li> </ul> |
| Learning Session 5            | Serving Local Foods and Family Engagement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Learning Session 6            | Celebrating Success and Sustaining Your Local Food Activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Action Period 3               | <b>Coach Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide technical assistance.</li> <li>Check-in on strategies for implementation of action plans.</li> <li>Brainstorm support needed for final implementation of action plans and discuss remaining tasks.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                               | <b>ECE Program Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work to complete action plans with the help of the Go NAPSACC Tips &amp; Materials library and other resources</li> <li>Mark action plans as "Complete" in Go NAPSACC.</li> <li>Share Storyboard with families and staff.</li> <li>Celebrate all successes and thank those who helped!</li> </ul>                                                                                                                     |
| Program Assessment            | <b>ECE Program Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete second Farm to ECE self-assessment (dark green icon with shovel) one month after Food and Farming Learning Collaborative.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Final Evaluation              | Coaches should request for participants to complete a final evaluation to gain feedback on what went well and where improvements can be made. This can be a paper evaluation or an electronic evaluation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

# PowerPoints with Notes



## Gardening in ECE Programs

- Food production gardens allow children opportunities to observe and become familiar with how fruits and vegetables grow
- Gardens are a great place for learning, motor skill development, and sensory stimulation

The training sessions in this series are focused on the **Garden** element of Farm to ECE.

Gardening is simply the practice of growing and cultivating plants. For child care, gardening includes teaching children about how food and plants are grown and giving them the opportunity to experience growing food themselves.

Gardening with the children in your care will provide them with skills to help their development. Through gardening, children can practice the skills that are important for growth and development. While they moving from one place to another, they may carry tools, soil and water, which can encourage development in locomotor skills, body management skills, and object control skills.



# Editable Agendas

## Gardening Learning Collaborative - Editable

### Learning Session 1: Introduction to Gardening Agenda

The agenda below is based on the "Sections" included in Learning Session 1: Introduction to Gardening. If you are offering the optional Farm to ECE Learning Collaborative Orientation, you can omit the slides in the "Learning Collaborative Orientation" Section of the Learning Session 1 PowerPoint. If you are not offering the Farm to ECE Learning Collaborative Orientation session, it will be helpful to use the "Learning Collaborative Orientation" Section to remind participants about the framework and expectations of the Gardening Learning Collaborative.

Objectives for this Learning Session are to:

- Review expectations of the Learning Collaborative
- Introduce participants to gardening

**Before beginning Learning Session 1:** Participating ECE Program staff should complete the Go NAPSACC Farm to ECE self-assessment.

| Training Component/Content                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Estimated Time (60 minutes) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda</li> <li>• Introductions</li> <li>• Group Norms (If you have already established Group Norms, paste those into the chat as a reminder for participants.)</li> <li>• Learning Objectives</li> </ul>                          | 5 minutes                   |
| Learning Collaborative Orientation (Omit Section if you offered the Farm to ECE Learning Collaborative Orientation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership Team Model</li> <li>• Gardening Learning Collaborative Structure</li> <li>• Learning Collaborative Core Components</li> </ul> | 15 minutes                  |
| Introduction to Gardening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three Focus Areas of Farm to ECE</li> <li>• Gardening in ECE Programs</li> <li>• Discussion Prompt: What are some ways that you have introduced gardening concepts to the children in your ECE program or classroom?</li> </ul>    | 20 minutes                  |
| Equity and Farm to ECE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the difference between equity and equality?</li> <li>• Gardening and Equity</li> <li>• What does equity look like in <a href="#">child care</a>?</li> <li>• Discussion Prompt: What does equity mean to you?</li> </ul>       | 15 minutes                  |
| Resources and Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources</li> <li>• Next Steps</li> <li>• Key Dates</li> <li>• Questions</li> <li>• Coach Information</li> </ul>                                                                                                                   | 5 minutes                   |

# Resource Guides



**Farm to Early Care and Education Learning Collaboratives**  
**Gardening Resource Guide**  
May 2024



**Farm to Early Care and Education Learning Collaboratives**  
**Food and Farming Education Resource Guide**  
June 2024



**Farm to Early Care and Education Learning Collaboratives**  
**Local Foods, Healthy Kids Resource Guide**  
June 2024





# How to Access the Materials

# How to Access the Materials

## LEARNING COLLABORATIVE MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM NEMOURS CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Nemours Children's Health Learning Collaborative +

Better Together Learning Collaboratives +

Farm to ECE Learning Collaboratives -

Developed in partnership with JumpIN for Healthy Kids and SPARK Learning Lab, Nemours Children's will release Farm to ECE Learning Collaborative materials for each of the three components of Farm to ECE: Gardening, Education and Procurement.

Learn more and find out how to access the [Farm to ECE Learning Collaborative Materials HERE](#)

## FARM TO ECE LEARNING COLLABORATIVE MATERIALS

Use and adapt the following materials to plan and implement your own Farm to ECE Learning Collaboratives with ECE programs. The materials below support Farm to ECE Learning Collaboratives across three content areas.

Questions? Contact [info@healthykidshealthyfuture.org](mailto:info@healthykidshealthyfuture.org).

Farm to ECE Orientation +

Gardening -

[Gardening Facilitator Guide](#)

[Gardening Resource Guide](#)

[Learning Session 1: Introduction to Gardening](#)

[Learning Session 2: Benefits of Gardening with Young Children](#)

[Learning Session 3: Gardening in ECE Programs](#)

[Learning Session 4: Getting Started with Growing](#)

[Learning Session 5: Maintaining Your ECE Program's Garden](#)  
[Learning Session 6: Celebrating Success and Sustaining Your Garden](#)

[Timelines for Trainers and Participants](#)

[Handouts](#)

[Evaluation](#)

Food and Farming Education +

Local Foods, Healthy Kids +

[healthykidshealthyfuture.org](http://healthykidshealthyfuture.org)

[info@healthykidshealthyfuture.org](mailto:info@healthykidshealthyfuture.org)



# Farm to ECE Learning Collaboratives in Indiana

**Jump IN for Healthy Kids**

*Megan McKinney Cooper, Communications Director*

## Farm to ECE in Indiana Megan McKinney Cooper



## Jump IN for Healthy Kids

Jump IN was founded in 2014 as a community-wide effort to empower kids in Central Indiana to live healthier lives! Our mission is to create healthy places, neighborhoods, and communities where families have real opportunities to make healthy choices that promote their health, vitality and well-being, including access to affordable, healthy food and meaningful opportunities to play and be active. We focus on systems-level change in three primary sectors: schools, early care and education centers, and in communities with special focus on healthy food access.

**4 in  
10 kids**

In central Indiana are at  
an unhealthy weight

**That's  
221,000**

Children at a higher risk of  
diabetes, heart disease and  
cancer

**And a  
53%**

Child obesity rate in  
central Indiana by 2025  
if trends continue

# Indiana Healthy Integration

Guided by the CDC's Spectrum of Opportunities, Jump IN is leading the sustainable integration into statewide systems: [CDC's Spectrum of Opportunities Framework for State-Level Obesity Prevention Efforts Targeting the Early Care and Education Setting](#)





## Farm to ECE 2023-2024

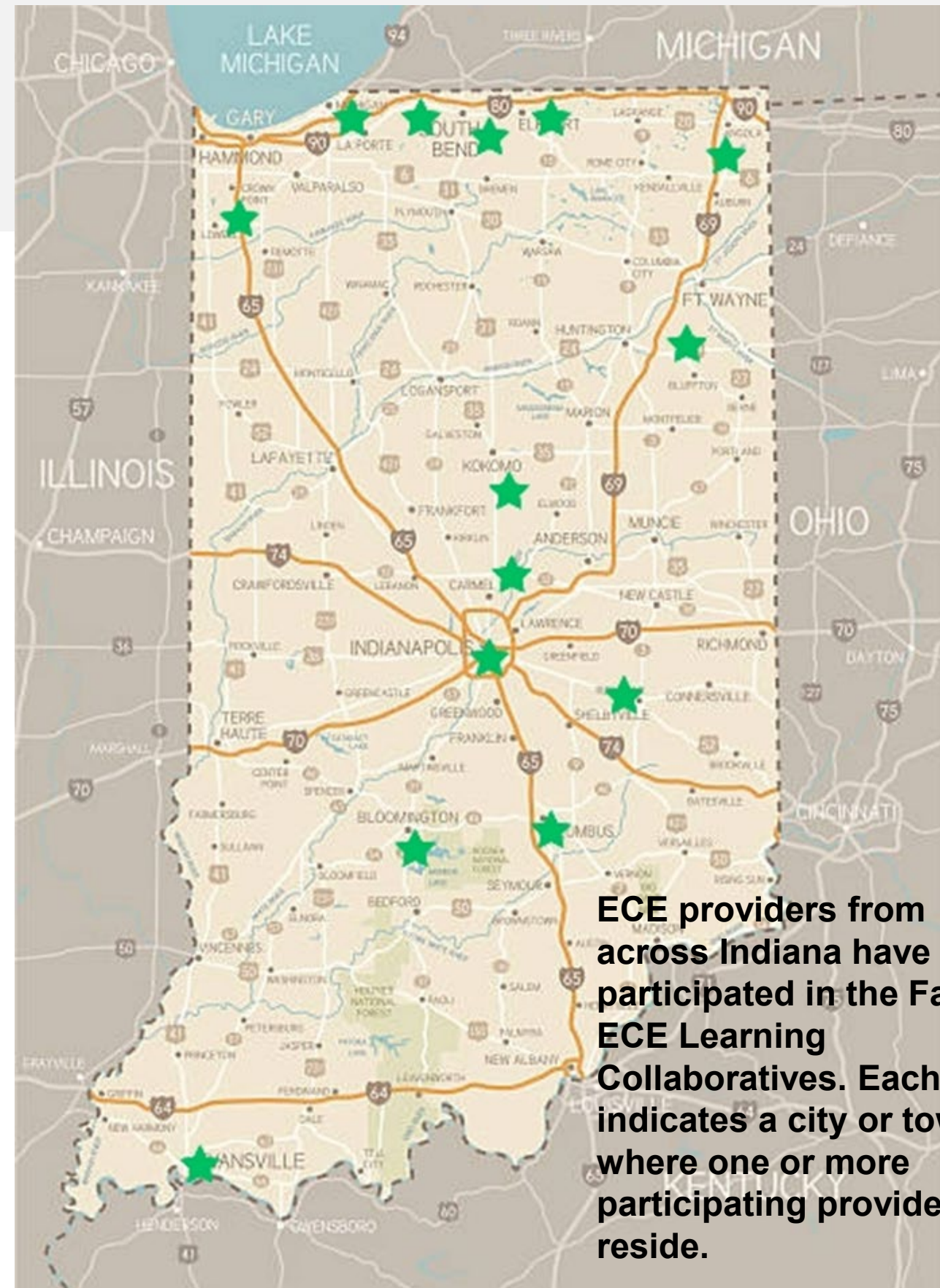
Statewide  
Access  
Initiatives  
(Farm2ECE)



1. Engaged Nemours Health to develop Farm to ECE Learning Collaborative content
2. Fully trained SPARK Learning Lab Mental Health and Wellness Coaches to implement three units of Farm to ECE Learning Collaboratives using Go NAPSACC tool:
  1. Gardening
  2. Food and Farming Education
  3. Local Foods, Healthy Kids
3. Recruited providers for Learning Collaboratives
4. Next: establish ongoing calendar of Learning Collaboratives and ensure high levels of interest in participation and adoption among providers

# Farm to ECE 2023-2024

|                                                    |                                          |             |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <p>30 Unique participants<br/>19 ECE providers</p> | <p>Best Practice Adoption</p> <p>4.1</p> | <p>12.3</p> |
| <p>294 children served</p>                         | <p>200% increase</p>                     |             |



ECE providers from across Indiana have participated in the Farm to ECE Learning Collaboratives. Each star indicates a city or town where one or more participating providers reside.

THANK YOU





# Implementing Farm to ECE Learning Collaboratives in Indiana

SPARK Learning Lab

*Jill Tucker, Mental Health & Wellness Coach*

*Tanika Phinisee, Mental Health & Wellness Coach*

# Questions?



# Upcoming Resource Showcase

## PALS Micro Trainings

July 23, 2024 @ 2:00 PM EDT



# Newly Released Podcast!

Let's Talk

## Early Years, Lasting Impact: Supporting Early Childhood Educators



<https://nemourswellbeyond.org/episode/early-years-lasting-impact/>

# THANK you!

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