

Autism workshop helps children get early support

November, 2014 - What are the signs of autism and what is effective care and support for children with autism? If childcare providers know these answers, then more children can get the early help and support they need to be ready for kindergarten. That is why Bloomington's Public Health Division offered a workshop to childcare providers in the South Metro.

Region 11 Interagency Early Intervention Council for the seven-county Metro Area provided funding support for this workshop.



Workshop attracted many seeking better understanding about autism

The Public Health Division provides yearly workshops to South Metro childcare providers on behalf of the South Hennepin County Help Me Grow team. Help Me Grow is a statewide program that helps children with developmental delays to be prepared for kindergarten.

Well-informed childcare providers can help children and families get early support for autism and other developmental concerns.

Currently, adults have a high level of interest and need for better knowledge about autism. This high level of interest resulted in a greater than usual workshop turnout. Ninety-one people attended of which over 80 were childcare providers in the South Metro.

Attendees gained skills to recognize autism and give support to children and families

Childcare providers and others who attended the workshop learned about signs of autism, how to support families that have a child with autism and how to make a childcare setting supportive for these children. *One childcare provider who attended said, "Now I have a much better idea of what to say to the parents whose child I have concerns about. Thanks."*

After this workshop, more children and families will get help they need so children can be ready for kindergarten and they can grow and develop to be their best.