

Farm to School in Early Childhood Builds Healthy Kids with Bright Futures

*Results from a National Survey of Early Care and
Education Providers*

Outreach Toolkit

April 2016



farmtoschool.org/earlychildhood

Introduction

In 2015, the National Farm to School Network surveyed early care and education (ECE) providers across the country to better understand current initiatives, motivations and challenges in applying farm to school activities in early care and education settings. Nearly **1,500 providers serving 183,369 young children in 49 states and Washington, D.C.**, responded and shared fascinating insight into the important work that they are doing to connect young children to healthy, local foods and food related educational opportunities.

What you need to know about farm to school in early childhood:

- Farm to school is a critical strategy for early childhood development for two important reasons: health and high-quality learning
- Teachers and early care providers see the benefits first hand:
 - More than 90 percent choose farm to school because it improves children's health, it teaches children where food comes from, and it provides children with experiential learning
- Farm to school is on the rise in early care and education environments across the country, and 40 percent of ECE sites currently integrating farm to school serve low-income children
- The National Farm to School Network is working to make it easier for teachers and early care providers to access the benefits of farm to school activities for kids, farmers and communities; resources are available at farmtoschool.org/earlychildhood

Get involved

To lift up and celebrate these results and build awareness of farm to school in early care and education, we developed materials (available at farmtoschool.org/earlychildhood) that farm to school and ECE supporters can use to start the conversation in their networks and communities.

Use the social media copy, graphics and blog content provided in this toolkit to share the survey results and the great benefits of farm to school in early care and education.

Here's how you can get started:

- Share the **INFOGRAPHIC** on your **social media channels** and **website**
 - Be sure to use the hashtags: **#farmtoschool** and **#ECE**
- Announce the **SURVEY RESULTS** in your next **e-newsletter**
- Post a story about the **BENEFITS** of farm to school in early child care and education settings on your **blog**
- Use the survey **LEARNINGS** to **start a conversation** with your school board, state CACFP office, Head Start programs or other ECE partners about integrating farm to school strategies
- Tell us what farm to school **ACTIVITIES** are happening at ECE sites in your community using our **Story Form**: farmtoschool.org/about/tell-us-your-story

Social Media

Social media is a great place to entice your network with survey results, graphics and resources. Use **#farmtoschool** and tag the **National Farm to School Network** to let us know that you are spreading the word!

- Follow us on Twitter at **@FarmtoSchool**
- Follow us on **Facebook** by searching for “National Farm to School Network”
- Follow us on Instagram at **@FarmtoSchool**

Suggested Tweets:

Results are in! #Farmtoschool in early childhood builds healthy kids with bright futures! Learn more at farmtoschool.org #ECE

8M kids spend time in early care and education – let’s set them up for success with #farmtoschool [include graphic] #ECE

Why #farmtoschool in early care and education? Healthy kids & high quality learning! farmtoschool.org/earlychildhood [include graphic] #ECE

#Farmtoschool in early care and education is on the rise! Survey confirms farm to #ECE activity in 48 states & DC farmtoschool.org/earlychildhood

#Farmtoschool works in early care and education! New survey from @farmtoschool farmtoschool.org/earlychildhood [include graphic] #ECE

Room to grow with #farmtoschool! Survey shows 54% of #ECE sites already do #farmtoschool + 28% ready to get started farmtoschool.org/earlychildhood

Suggested Facebook/Instagram Posts:

The results are in: farm to school in early childhood builds healthy kids with bright futures! New **@National Farm to School Network** survey data shows why early care and education providers choose farm to school: <http://goo.gl/edgZt0> [include graphic]

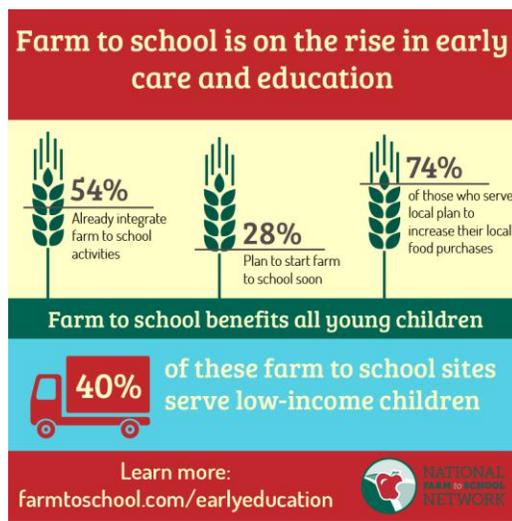
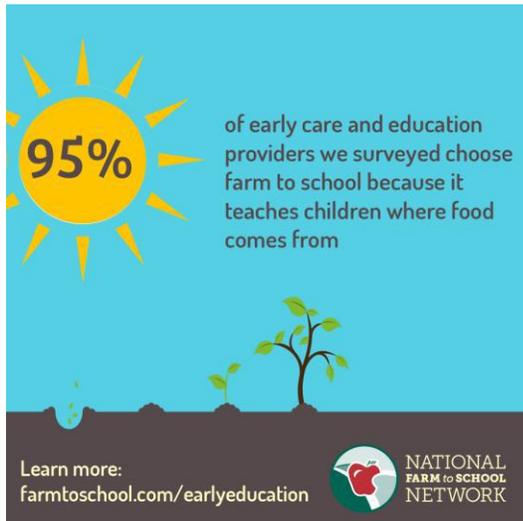
Early care and education providers agree: #farmtoschool supports healthy kids and high-quality education. Learn more in new survey results from **@National Farm to School Network**: <http://goo.gl/edgZt0>. [include graphic]

Farm to school is on the rise in early care and education! 54% of surveyed sites are already doing farm to school activities and 28% are ready to get started. Get started with farm to school in early care and education at farmtoschool.org/earlychildhood. [include graphic]

“When they grow it, they eat it!” Early care and education providers see the difference. Learn why providers choose #farmtoschool in new **@National Farm to School’s Network** survey results: <http://goo.gl/edgZt0>. [include graphic]

Social Media Graphics

Right click to save image. Or, download full size graphics [here](#).



Sample text for newsletters and blogs

Short version

The results are in: farm to school in early care and education builds healthy kids with bright futures!

In 2015, the National Farm to School Network surveyed early care and education providers across the country. Nearly **1,500 providers serving 183,369 young children in 49 states and Washington, D.C.**, responded and shared fascinating insight into the important work that they are doing to connect young children to healthy, local foods and food related educational opportunities.

The results show that farm to school in early care and education is on the rise across the country. **54%** of respondents are already doing farm to school activities and another **28%** plan to start in the near future. A new infographic and factsheet are available with more survey results. To see the results and learn how the National Farm to School Network is working to expand farm to school in early care and education, visit farmtoschool.org/earlychildhood.

Long version

The results are in: farm to school in early care and education builds healthy kids with bright futures!

In 2015, the National Farm to School Network surveyed early care and education providers across the country. Nearly **1,500 providers serving 183,369 young children in 49 states and Washington, D.C.**, responded and shared with us fascinating insight into the important work that they are doing to connect young children to healthy, local foods and food related educational opportunities.

Over **54%** of respondents say they are already doing farm to school activities and another **28%** have plans to start in the near future. There's a reason farm to school in early care and education is on the rise. Providers say they choose farm to school to support **children's health** (95%), teach children about **where food comes from and how it grows** (95%), and provide **experiential learning** opportunities (94%). Respondents agree, farm to school activities help create high quality learning environments that promote life long health and wellness, which are important priorities for children, providers and parents.

To see the survey results and learn how the National Farm to School Network is working to expand farm to school in early care and education, visit farmtoschool.org/earlychildhood. The National Farm to School Network has developed an infographic and factsheet to share these exciting results and show how farm to school in early care and education is supporting healthy kids with bright futures. Join us in supporting good health and great education for young children!