The early care and education (ECE) system serves a diverse range of families from many different backgrounds, structures, and capacities. There are varying estimates, but between 2 and 4 percent of American adults identify as LGBT (Gates, 2015), and this percentage has grown over the past five years (Gates, 2017). In 2016, Gallup estimated that nearly 2 million Americans were in same-sex marriages or were living with a same-sex partner (Jones, 2016). Estimates based on 2011 American Community Survey data indicate that the number of children under 18 being raised by an LGBT parent ranges from 2 to 4 million, with approximately 200,000 being raised by same-sex couples (Gates, 2013). Analyses of 2013 National Health Interview Survey data yield similar estimates (Gates, 2014).

In recognition that working with this growing population presents special considerations for providers, the National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families early childhood training and technical assistance system, produced a resource series to help ECE programs build strong relationships with LGBT parents and families (Head Start Early Learning and Knowledge Center, n. d.).
This Research-to-Policy Resource List compiles empirical research on American LGBT families’ experiences with ECE and providers’ experiences and preparation for working with LGBT families. The three reviews that begin the list summarize the research literature published through 2012. The remaining resources on the list include the research literature published after the period covered by those reviews. They have been divided into those that focus on LGBT families and those that focus on providers.

Reviews of Research Conducted Prior to 2012

Research Published since 2012 on the ECE Experiences of LGBT Families

Research Published since 2012 on ECE Provider Perspectives on Serving LGBT Families


References


Prepared by: Daniel Ferguson
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