The Impact of Theory-Based Trainings on the Level of Creativity of Family Day Care Providers

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ABSTRACT
The purpose of this quantitative study was to evaluate how two interventions, based upon two substantially different theories of creativity, impact 125 Latina female childcare providers and their assistants’ level of creativity. The age range of the participants was 27–71 years old, and the experience of the participants varied from 1 to 32 years as a child caregiver. This secondary data analysis study was based on a post-test only, true experimental design. This study contributes to understanding of how to reverse the decline of creativity in Latina childcare providers with high cultural sensitivity, and fidelity.

PROBLEM
Creativity predicts success. Creativity is in decline in America. Creativity is low in Latino children. Creativity is low in Latina providers. Creativity in children can be improved by increasing creativity in providers. Csikszentmihalyi and Carson offered two different approaches to enhancing creativity. No previous research on the relative effectiveness of these or other theories with this group.

PURPOSE
The purpose of this quantitative experimental study was to test two theories of creativity with Latina childcare providers using culturally sensitive operationalization of the theories.

RELEVANT LITERATURE
Csikszentmihalyi’s Theory of Creativity (2008): Creativity is an enjoyable, meaningful, and cheerful process below the level of conscious awareness where the creator is not aware of time and surroundings; often referred to as Flow.

Carson’s Theory of Creativity (2010): Creativity can be enhanced based on seven brain sets (brainsets) that can be consciously activated through particular activities; often referred to as Seven Steps.

The Torrance Theory of Creativity (1995) is based on mastering the characteristics of creativity: fluency, originality, abstractness of titles, elaboration, and resistance to premature closure.

This study was based on adult learning theory and Latina female child care provider development (Castro, Rodriguez, & Agosto, 2008) and explored other research on conceptualizations of creativity (Friedman and Mandelbaum, 2011; Cropley & Cropley, 2008; Eckhoff & Urbach, 2008).

RESEARCH QUESTIONS
RQ1: Are there significant (p ≤ .05) interaction effects of type of training by aspect of creativity (each participant was measured on all five aspects of creativity).
RQ2: Is there a significant difference between how participants rate the cultural sensitivity of the training in each group?
RQ3: Is there a significant difference between how participants rate their satisfaction with the training in each group?
RQ4: To what extent is each type of training delivered in accordance with the essential elements of each theory as rated by four members of a panel of professional social workers trained in both theories of creativity?

PROCEDURES
The agency randomly assigned all caregivers to one of three groups. The control group completed health and safety training with Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The primary researcher:
• Developed curricula and trained four presenters
• Trained four social workers to observe and evaluate sessions to assess implementation fidelity
• Administered the Torrance tests of creative thinking (Torrance, 2008) to all three groups and cultural sensitivity and training satisfaction surveys to the Csikszentmihalyi and Carson groups.
• Conducted secondary data analysis based on a true experimental post-test-only design with a control group.

DATA ANALYSIS
RQ1 3 x 5 Repeated Measures ANOVA to test the interaction effects of type of training by aspect of creativity (each participant was measured on all five aspects of creativity).
RQs 2 and 3: Independent sample t-tests.
RQ4: Experts used checklists to assess training fidelity for each group.

FINDINGS
Control group scored significantly lower than norms on all five measures of creativity (See Figure).

SOCIAL CHANGE IMPLICATIONS
This study contributed to understanding how to improve creativity in Latina child care providers using either a flexible flow approach or a more structured seven steps process. Both methods were rated high on sensitivity, satisfaction, and fidelity and can be used to increase the creative potential of society by indirectly promoting the development of a new generation of creative thinkers.