Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Extension is committed to improving the health and well-being of individuals and families throughout Kentucky. Our educational programs focus on making healthy lifestyle choices, nurturing families, embracing life as we age, securing financial stability, promoting healthy homes and communities, accessing nutritious food, and empowering community leaders.

By using effective parenting skills, parents help children become responsible, caring adults and productive members of society. However, limited resources can make it hard for parents to get formal parenting training. In Kentucky, Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Extension through the University of Kentucky provides parenting skills programs. As these programs strengthen families, they also empower our communities. Our goal is to provide educational opportunities to help every family succeed.

**A HEALTHIER KENTUCKY**

Parenting skills for family success

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**OUR FOCUS**

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**OUR SUCCESS**

In 2017-2018, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made 37,438 contacts with individuals and families in McCracken County.¹

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**Denise Wooley**

County Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences Education

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1. County Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences Education

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2017 estimated population under 18 years old²

- 453 to 2,326
- 2,330 to 3,512
- 3,556 to 5,422
- 5,668 to 10,320
- 10,347 to 171,882
Families face many challenges, including poverty, readying children for their school careers, and supporting children who are being harassed or bullied. Some parents also are unable to raise their children and must turn to relatives for help. No matter the challenge, FCS helps families succeed.

**It takes a village**

A growing number of children are being raised by other relatives, especially grandparents. The American Community Survey (ACS) estimates that between 2012 and 2016 in McCracken County, 717 (+/- 209) grandparents lived with and were responsible for their grandchildren, and 700 (+/- 192) grandchildren were being raised by their grandparents. For 363 (+/- 157) of those grandchildren, there was no parent present. Of all children living in all households, 504 (+/- 193) were stepchildren, 523 (+/- 213) were adopted children, and 374 (+/- 154) children were living with other relatives.

**The safety of our children**

For families, child safety is a priority that can be jeopardized in many ways. In McCracken County in 2017, 24.9% (19.6%–30.2%) of all families with school-aged children lived below poverty, and there were 186 child victims of substantiated abuse or neglect in 2016. In the schools, there were 209 reported incidences of harassment, which included bullying, in the 2016-2017 school year for all school districts in McCracken County.

**Kindergarten readiness**

The first five years of life are vital in a child’s development and success in life. In 2017, McCracken County had an estimated 3,977 children ages 5 and under. Of those children, 201 were enrolled as preschoolers. In McCracken County, 56.5% of students entered kindergarten ready to engage in and benefit from early learning experiences in the 2016-2017 school year.

For more information and to download this and other county profiles, visit hes.uky.edu/StrongFamilies