

PREVENTION INITIATIVE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Western/Pleasant Hill Prevention Initiative Program consists of three Parent Educators and one Supervisor. The Parent Educators serve 15 children, 16 families, and 2 prenatal who are "at risk" of academic failure 12 months a year. The program provides intense early educational opportunities for the most needy children and families in the district. It serves the children prenatally to three years of age then transitions them into the Pre-K Programs.

Families are recruited using hospital referrals, doctor referrals, flyers posted throughout the community, in the newspaper and mailed to families identified as having a child age eligible. A 0-3 Data Base has been developed using the above resources. This data base lists all families in the districts that fall into the category of prenatal to having a child age birth to three. Prevention Initiative pulls information from this resource to establish its caseload. An Early Childhood Contact Service Tracker for Child Care is used to track all licensed child cares in the district. The Supervisor visits these child cares 3 times a year to provide early childhood education and obtain referrals. The Parent Educators also mail calendars/newsletters/parent education to these service providers.

Western/Pleasant Hill PI follows the Baby Talk Curriculum conducting weekly/biweekly/monthly personal encounters (depending on need) with an emphasis on teenage parents, first time parents, and rural families with lack of socialization. Staff also uses the Illinois Early Learning Guidelines to direct this program; Baby Talk incorporates the Illinois Early Learning Guidelines throughout their activities and parent education. The PI Application, a developmental screening, and a weighted selection criteria guide ensure the neediest families are selected for enrollment. A monthly newsletter/calendar with parent education, parent-child activities, and group encounters enhances and provides 12 month services. The families have access to a Parent Lending Library, Toy Lending Library, Children's Book Lending Library, and workshops.

The Parent Educator uses the Ages and Stages Questionnaire 3 screening for selection purposes and to develop a baseline for the child's development. The child's development/social emotional level is then assessed using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire - Social Emotional (ASQ-SE). A Functional vision & hearing screening will also be completed on each child. Children who score below the cutoff range will be referred for further evaluation. HELP (Hawaii Early Learning Profile) provides milestones to monitor the child's progress on each personal encounter. The program will use the

(Piccolo) Parenting Interactions with Children Checklist of Observations Linked to Outcomes. This will evaluate the quality of parent-child interactions. This tool shows parents what they can do to support their child's development.

Along with education, health and social services are addressed. Each enrolled family completes a Health History(on application). An Individual Family Service Plan, Life Skills Progression (child/parent) or Baby Talk Family Resource Assessment & Monitoring form and PI Application is also completed to provide social services. A Referral Document is filled out to document agencies that families have been referred to and allows follow up to occur.

All staff complete an Annual Individual Goals Worksheet, Professional Development Plan & Evaluation and Confidentiality form at the beginning of each program year. This plan drives the topic of workshops and trainings that staff will attend. The plans are reviewed during the midpoint of the year and at the end of the year to ensure that staff has reached their goals.

The program measures its effectiveness by using a program developed parents survey, the Prevention Initiative Compliance Checklist, PI Parent Questionnaire, and the PI Outcomes Questionnaire. This data is developed into an Annual Continuous Quality Plan, so program improvement can take place.

The Western/Pleasant Hill Prevention Initiative Program builds a strong foundation for learning and it prepares children for school readiness. It also provides intense, research-based, and comprehensive child development and family support services for expecting parents and children birth to three. All aspects of this program have clear input and gives outcomes for the child, family and the program as a whole.