Linking Families to Community Resources: A Home Visitor’s Approach

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Introduction

Home visiting is a major strategy within the DC’s Early Success Framework for young children. As mandated under the Framework and MIECHV DC is required to provide a rigorous professional development program to home visitors.

Developing the knowledge and skills required for referring children to community based programs is a critical element of the professional development program. Coordination and collaboration among community resources and supports is an integral part of the training for home visiting programs in Washington, DC.

Objectives of the home visitor will:
1. Identify a variety of community based programs and resources available to families to promote development and positive parenting.
2. Describe the purpose of Strong Start, the DC Early Intervention Program and Early Stages, the DCPS special education preschool eligibility determination center.
3. Describe the referral process for Strong Start and Early Stages.
4. Communicate and collaborate with community based programs to ensure that the home visiting curriculum is being reinforced by other service providers and that the home visitor is confident reinforcing strategies/goals/objectives of other service providers.

Session Agenda:
• Ice Breaker Activity and Pre Test
• Think back to childhood & describe to your partner the perfect summer day – describe the setting and resources, then discuss how we share resources that build the capacity of the family to allow the development of competence, confidence and trust .
• Introduction
• Case Study and Discussion
• Power Point: Early Intervention and School Readiness
• Stretch Break
• Power Point II: Positive Parenting Practices
• Video Clip: DC Healthy Babies
• Handouts (see links), Post test ,Wrap-up.

Background

The Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program provides grants to states to deliver critical health, developmental, early learning, and family support services to children and families.

The program provides voluntary home visits in communities identified by the state grantees to be at high risk.

The home visiting programs support pregnant women and families and help parents of children from birth to age 5 to develop the skills needed to raise children who are physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and ready to learn.

Description of Session

This session will discuss the process of collaboration among home visitors and a variety of community programs and resources, especially those related to serving children at risk for developmental delay. Training includes the referral process as well as program expectations.

Pre/Post Test

1. Linking families to specialized programs for children at-risk or delayed is preferred. (T or F)
2. Non-specialized community programs are prepared to meet the needs of children at-risk (T or F)
3. Name two indicators of delayed development.
4. Who can refer a child to IDEA when there are concerns about a child’s development?
5. Describe three community programs available to caregivers and their families.

Objectives:
The first three years of life are a period of intense intellectual development during which the brain forms a foundation for later learning and development. High quality home visiting programs are effective service delivery methods that support early learning in these years to ensure that children succeed in school and beyond. In order for babies to grow up healthy and ready to learn, parents need resources, services, and supports to help them fully support their child’s development. Home visitors require training on the resources available in the community to serve children with and at risk for disabilities and delays.

The DC MIECHV follows three evidence based home visiting models: Healthy Families America (HFA), Parents as Teachers (PAT), and Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY).

The program provides voluntary home visits in neighborhoods identified by the state grantees to be at high risk.

The home visiting programs support expectant parents, caregivers, and families of children from birth to age 5 to develop the skills needed to raise children who are physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and ready to learn.

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PAT is an early childhood parent education and family support program serving families throughout pregnancy until their child enters kindergarten.

HFA is a national program model built on critical elements designed to promote positive parenting, enhance child health and development, and prevent child abuse and neglect for over burdened families.

HIPPY provides early education intervention to children 3 to 5 years old. The program helps parents with prepare their children for school. HIPPY promotes school readiness and supports parents as their children’s first teacher by providing instruction in the home

Agenda/Resources

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Resources:

Early Learning
• Strong Start Play Groups
• Healthy Babies Project
• DC Strong Families
• Project Launch
• Family Place
• Mary’s Center

Neighborhood Activities
• Dept of Parks and Recreation
• DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative
• THEARC
• DC Public Library
• Boys and Girls Club

Health and Wellness
• Bread for the City
• Department of Health
• Department Healthcare Finance
• Covenant House
• Planned Parenthood

Links: Handouts/Video

Daily Community Activities
http://gouchd.georgetown.edu/products/CSPCommunity.pdf

Caregiver Guide
http://gouchd.georgetown.edu/products/CSPDcagreegar.pdr

Early Stages Child Development Milestones
www.earlystagesdc.org
www.learnDC.org

DC Healthy Babies Video Clip
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HufNs5D740

References


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