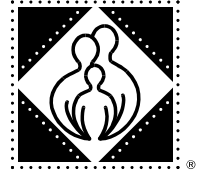


Healthy Families America Helps Ensure That Children are Ready to Learn¹



Healthy Families America promotes healthy brain development.

Home visitors help new parents provide children with experiences that stimulate healthy brain development. Educating parents about ways to engage their child in play and stimulate their minds is a benefit to both parent and child. Parents develop a strong, nurturing bond and children are more cognitively, emotionally, socially, and behaviorally ready to enter school.

⊙ **Georgia:** Parents in Healthy Families America programs were more likely to have organized their children's home environment to promote optimal development and to provide their children with age appropriate play materials.

⊙ **Oregon:** 76% of higher risk participants read or looked at picture books with their year-old child at least three times a week.

⊙ **Virginia (Galano I):** Home-visited families provided higher optimal levels of stimulation than families in the control group after both one and two years of participation in the program.

Participating children receive early developmental screenings.

Early identification of developmental delays is an important step in ensuring children get the best start in life. Healthy Families America staff are trained to utilize validated measures to determine if children are progressing at an appropriate pace. When necessary, referrals for educational services are facilitated.

⊙ **Arizona (Davenport):** Ninety-five percent of children were functioning at age-appropriate developmental levels at 48 months of age.

⊙ **Michigan:** Total child development scores were significantly better in the home-visited group than the control group.

⊙ **New York:** Ninety-nine point five percent of the sample received developmental screening and 92% of the participating children fell within the normal range of development. For children whose development was assessed as deviating from the norm, 95% were referred for services.

⊙ **Oregon:** Among higher risk families in the program, age-appropriate development is evident in 89% of children. Of those children who fall outside the normal development range, 93% received services.

¹ This report highlights findings from 18 studies conducted in 11 states over the past decade. The study designs range from pre-post analysis to statewide comparison and randomized trials.