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Q&A Corner

Partners for Kids: Dynamite Dads for Dynamic Children, Families and Communities

By Lori Friedman, HFA Research Liaison

Healthy Families America (HFA) helps parents provide a safe and supportive home environment, gain a better understanding of their child's development, obtain access to health care and other resources, use positive forms of discipline, and nurture the bond with their child. All of these activities help reduce the risk factors linked to child maltreatment.

Although HFA home visitors are trained and encouraged to work with multiple members of the family, reports from programs over the years indicate that it is typically the mother who is the primary recipient of services. Fortunately, that is changing in some programs that have developed additional strategies to better engage fathers. Fathers are critical for the healthy development of their children. For young children, a father's emotional connection and ability to provide financial supports are associated with a child's well-being, cognitive development and social competence. In one study, preschool-age children whose fathers were responsible for 40 percent or more of the family's child care tasks were further along in their cognitive development, were more confident exploring their home environment, and exhibited more empathy than those children whose fathers were less involved.¹

It is also known that the rate of child abuse in single-parent families is nearly twice the rate of child abuse in two-parent households. Active participation of fathers has been shown to benefit women and children. Children in families with uninvolved fathers are more likely to be maltreated by their mothers. Mothers raising children on their own, without support from the father tend to have higher levels of stress, which can result in physical abuse or neglect.²

So how can programs reach out to fathers and engage them in the important role of child rearing? The HFA program in Lake and Sumter counties of central Florida incorporated a fatherhood component into its program in September 2001, with the goal of training dads to be responsible,

¹ Radin, N. (1994). "Primary –Caregiving Fathers in Intact Families." In A.E. Gottfried & A.W. Gottfried (eds.), *Redefining Families: Implications for Children's Development*. (pp. 55-97). New York: Plenum.

² Biller, H.B. (1995). Preventing paternal deprivation. In J.L. Shapiro, M.J. Diamond, & M. Greenberg (Eds.), *Becoming a father: Contemporary, social, developmental, and clinical perspectives* (pp. 72-82). New York: Springer Publishing Company.

nurturing fathers. Prior to this time, there were no programs in the state targeting services to fathers.

Individual fathers are referred to the program through various means including the home visitors for the Healthy Families program, from Family Builders and school counselors, Healthy Start caseworkers, law enforcement officers, churches and other social agencies in the community. Usually these dads are struggling with one or more risk factors or family crisis, which comes to the attention of agency staff. In order to best meet the specific needs of fathers, the program created a Fatherhood Specialist position.

The Fatherhood Specialist provides basic case management for the individual dads and bases the frequency of home visits on the needs of the father. The fathers develop their parenting skills and receive a variety of educational materials. To provide comprehensive services, fathers are referred to other resources in the community, including mental health counseling, legal assistance, job training or placement help, housing assistance, food, clothing, furniture, medical care and spiritual needs as necessary.

In addition to the individual home visits that are offered, the program also conducts a 13-week fathering skill-building class based on Mark Perlman's "Nurturing Fathers Program" (www.nurturingfathers.com). This course helps participants reflect on their own experiences as a child and learn from other dads about how to more effectively nurture their children. It is recommended that programs conduct discussions on a variety of topics such as: home safety, bonding with baby, how to be a parenting partner, male vs. female nurturing, understanding post-partum depression and how to be supportive, shaken baby syndrome, how to listen to your child, handling stress, balancing work and family duties, and utilizing fear- and violence-free discipline. Group participants include single dads, teen dads, middle-aged dads, step-dads, and granddads, which makes for an interesting dynamic of intergenerational learning.

More than 790 fathers have participated in this program since its inception. Collectively, these fathers affect the care of 1,492 children whose lives are being influenced by the involvement of a caring father. Classes have been taught in churches, social service agencies, correctional centers and faith-based substance-abuse treatment centers.

Initial funding from the Lake County Citizens' Commission on Children enabled the program to leverage subsequent funding from local private foundations, United Way of Lake and Sumter counties, area Kiwanis Clubs, the Orlando Magic Youth Foundation and the Orlando Sentinel Family Fund.

More than 170 men have graduated from the program. Of these graduates, 90 percent increased their scores on a parenting inventory. This shows that the fathers developed a more nurturing attitude after completing the program. Most of the participants report that they are more involved with their children than they were before taking the training.

Research shows that positive changes in parental attitudes lead to a reduction in risk factors linked to child abuse and neglect and indeed, there have been no documented reports of child abuse among the fathers who have completed the program.

Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive.

"If I had not had the assistance of the fatherhood specialist over these last several months after my wife deserted our family, I don't think I could have kept myself, my family and my business together. Just having the fatherhood specialist to talk to has kept me going," said one 41-year-old single father.

And from a 23-year-old single father: "I've learned that fathering is not just about providing food and clothing, but giving children time and love. It's about making memorable moments, and that is priceless. Communication is the key to all this. This really encouraged me as a father... I now have a different outlook about life."

"Since the inception of this program, we have seen fathers regain custody of their children out of foster-care, single dads have been awarded residential custody of their children by the court, and developmentally-challenged dads have been able to retain custody of their children. Dads who are incarcerated have been empowered to continue involvement with their children in spite of their forced separation," says Healthy Families' fatherhood specialist, Doug Cleeton.

"Most dramatic is what some of our judges are seeing in their courtrooms, the positive influence of this training in men's lives has made a significant impact on judges making decisions regarding sentencing those who have past issues of child abuse and domestic violence. This program is truly making a significant impact on bringing fathers and their children together, and strengthening families in our community," Cleeton said.

(For additional information on this program, please contact Doug Cleeton, fatherhood specialist, Children's Home Society, at (352) 315-3900.)

Fatherhood Resources

The *National Fatherhood Initiative* (NFI) utilizes media outreach, public service advertising and national fatherhood summits to change public opinion about the importance of fatherhood. NFI works with local communities to provide technical assistance and training. www.fatherhood.org

The *Fatherhood Project* is a national research and education program that is examining the future of fatherhood and is developing ways to support men's involvement in childrearing. www.fatherhoodproject.org

The *National Center of Fathers and Families'* primary goals are to:

- Expand the knowledge base on father involvement, family efficacy, and child well-being within multiple disciplines through research and development, integrated discussion, and information building
- Strengthen practice through practitioner-targeted conversations, information dissemination, and collaborative activities
- Contribute to critical policy discussions by creating a coherent agenda of work that is built around existing and emerging local, state, and federal efforts. <http://www.ncoff.gse.upenn.edu/>

Dads Make A Difference program run out of the Healthy Families San Angelo program in TX.
<http://www.hfsatx.com/dad/>

Father Involvement -- Building Strong Programs for Strong Families, the featured topic of the June 2004 issue of the Head Start Bulletin, outlines the steps to develop a strong father-involvement program. The Building Blocks for Father Involvement are a series of booklets available to Head Start programs. The information is intended as a resource to help Head Start programs, Early Head Start programs, and other early childhood programs develop and sustain father involvement. The bulletin is available on the Head Start Information and Publication Center Web site at http://www.headstartinfo.org/publications/hsbulletin77/cont_77.htm or http://www.headstartinfo.org/pdf/father_involvement.pdf.

PCA America News

Regional Resource Centers (RRCs)- Call for Proposals!

Healthy Families America announced the call for proposals for a third RRC in mid-August. The deadline for applications is October 15, 2004. Those interested should contact the RRC consultant, Meri Pohutsky, at AMERICalls@aol.com or at (596) 949-5787 for more information.

Research

The June 2004 edition of the Journal of Child Abuse and Neglect contained a series of articles on the Hawaii Healthy Start evaluation and other home visiting evaluation issues. See the official press release here: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2004-06/jhmi-hvp061504.php

The Research Center at PCA America has prepared talking points on this study. The talking points are intended to provide some guidelines for reactions in the event you get questions about the articles.

The journal also contained an "invited commentary" by Mark Chaffin, which had some significant commentary on the future of research for the Healthy Start/HFA program. In response, the PCA America Research Center prepared a "rejoinder" that was submitted for publication to the journal for their next issue. Please contact Lisa Schreiber (lschreiber@preventchildabuse.org) or Lori Friedman (lfriedman@preventchildabuse.org) for a copy of the talking points and/or rejoinder.

Upcoming Publication: Guidelines for Determining When and How to Respond to Research Studies. This guide, prepared by the PCA America Research Center, provides basic information to help determine an appropriate and sound response to the release of research findings. The publication will be posted shortly on the HFA website at: <http://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org/research/index.shtml>

State Systems

Highlights from the 2004 HFA State Systems Survey

As many of you may be aware, information is collected about state systems activities on a bi-annual basis. One survey per state is completed and covers topics such as budgets, training and

technical assistance, communication, evaluation, and strategic planning. This year, responses from 33 states were received. Comprehensive budgetary data such as the type and amount of public and private sources from the federal, state and local levels was presented at this year's State Leaders Meeting. That presentation can be downloaded from the HFA website at: http://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org/network_resources/hfa_state_of_state_systems.pdf

We would like to share highlights from other sections of the survey in this and upcoming issues of *Scoop*. If you have questions about the survey or would like additional information, feel free to contact Lori Friedman at lfriedman@preventchildabuse.org

With elections just around the corner, we thought it would be useful to present some findings from the Advocacy section of the survey. In addition, we've provided some follow-up analysis of budgetary data based on recommendations made during the State Leader's Meeting.

Political Support

It is important to advocate for HFA and home visiting on a range of levels from national (US senators and representatives) to state (governor and state officials) to local (city and county officials). While we know that many states are active in their own back yards, we were pleased to learn of support in some states at higher levels.

A total of 13 states have a governor who is supportive of HFA and/or home visitation. Of these, eight states have governor interest and/or support for HFA and eight states have governor interest and/or support for home visitation. In three states, the governor is supportive of **both** HFA and home visiting. Sixteen states indicated that they have had contact with their governor within the past two years. We encourage all states to maintain a relationship with their governor's office by adding them to their HFA mailing list and keeping them apprised of accomplishments. These efforts can position HFA staff as a resource and may pay off in the form of being asked to sit on state level panels or advisory groups dedicated to families and children.

As far as congressional and senatorial support, four states have a congressperson that is supportive of HFA; five states have a congressperson that is interested in and/or supportive of home visiting more generally. Ten states have had contact with a congressional representative within the past two years. Only two states have senatorial support for HFA, although five states have a senator who is interested in/supportive of HV. Eleven states have had contact with a senator within the past two years.

As with your governor, we recommend cultivating and nurturing relationships with your US elected officials to maintain their familiarity with the program and to demonstrate the ongoing need for supportive services.

Advocacy Activities

States are fairly active when it comes to participating in advocacy-related activities. States tend to spend time cultivating relationships with state officials and legislators and disseminating research. Over half of the states that responded to the survey indicated that they had testified at hearings or other legislative briefings. This is impressive, as invitations are required in order to provide this type of testimony. States also host and/or participate in community meetings and

lobbying days. More than one-third utilize a legislative tracking system and conduct letter-writing campaigns when appropriate.

Respondents indicate that a variety of outcomes have come partially as a result of these advocacy efforts. Most of these activities created opportunities for facilitating networking and information-sharing, generating press coverage and increasing awareness of the program. Engaging in these advocacy activities served as a catalyst for developing informational materials and increasing awareness of relevant legislation. In a handful of states, these advocacy activities contributed towards an increase in both volunteers and donations. For some states, the consistent utilization of a variety of advocacy strategies, resulted in being able to maintain or restore their HFA or home visiting budgets in spite of other programs being cut, obtaining support from legislators for the program and creating home visitation legislation.

Engaging Stakeholders

As far as engaging others, states utilize a number of stakeholders to accomplish the variety of activities required when advocating for HFA and home visitation.

While State Leaders were involved at varying rates with all the advocacy activities, they had heaviest involvement in relationship-building with state officials and legislators. Site staff was also very active. In over 50% of the states who responded to the survey, site staff was engaged in relationship-building, testifying, hosting or participating in community meetings and/or lobbying days and conducting letter-writing campaigns.

Families were primarily involved in testifying, participating in community meetings, helping with letter-writing campaigns and meeting with legislators. Engaging families to promote the benefits of the program tends to be very effective at having a powerful impact on key decision-makers.

Similar to State Leaders, coalition members were engaged primarily in relationship-building activities. They were also involved in testifying, community meetings, lobbying and helping to write letters.

The key points from this data suggest that states consider the wide range of advocacy activities that can be utilized to promote HFA. Some of these are occasional activities such as lobbying days or letter-writing while others should occur on an ongoing basis such as relationship-building, disseminating research and tracking legislation. However, advocating for the program shouldn't be an overwhelming task. It is important to engage a variety of stakeholders from site staff to State Leaders to families, volunteers and coalition members to help them make the case for prevention. By soliciting their help, you increase their investment in the program and you will have a more efficient process.

Budgetary Information

Staff at the national office is often asked, **“What is the average cost per family per year?”** Our response is that based on data from the 15 states responding to this question on our 2004 State Systems Survey, the average cost per family per year is \$3,348. The range is from \$1,950 to \$5,768. It is important to keep in mind that programs differed in the methods used to

determine costs per family. Most programs determined this figure by dividing their total budget by the number of families enrolled, served or unduplicated.

However, due to the variability from state to state, we thought it might be helpful to provide average cost per family as a factor of the number of sites per state. When calculated this way, you can see that the general trend is for the average cost per family to decrease as the number of HFA programs per state increases.

Average cost per family in relation to # of HFA sites per state:

1 – 2 sites	\$3,950	n = 2
3 – 10 sites	\$3,310	n = 4
11 – 19 sites	\$3,227	n = 3
20+ sites	\$3,234	n = 6

Another frequent question is “**How much is being spent in states on Healthy Families America?**” State allocations for HFA range from \$350,000 to over \$40 million. Clearly expenditures within states are linked with the number and size of programs. The greater the number of programs in a state and/or the higher the number of families served in each program will impact how much money is allocated to HFA in a given state. Again, due to the wide variability across states with regard to budget size, we wanted to present the information from the perspective of the number of sites per state.

Average state budget in relation to the # of HFA sites per state:

1 – 2 sites	\$591,847	n = 6
3 – 10 sites	\$2,856,743	n = 7
11 – 19 sites	\$3,587,716	n = 6
20+ sites	\$21,615,884	n = 6

There are many factors that contribute to a state’s budget. This information is just intended to serve as a general guideline. We hope this information is useful in comparing your own state’s data to similar states.

Training

The HFA Training Department has had a busy summer. They held two advanced trainings this year, with a combined attendance of about 55 certified HFA trainers; one Train the Trainers Institute, with 14 attendees from across the country; and one training of 15 PCA America chapter staff on the prenatal curriculum. If you or someone you know is interested in attending a future training on the prenatal home visiting curriculum, please contact Phyllis Medrano at pmedrano@preventchildabuse.org or 312.663.3520 x815.

Advocacy

Home Visiting Legislation Introduced: On May 12th, Senator Christopher “Kit” Bond introduced the *Education Begins at Home Act* (S.2412) to establish a federal funding stream dedicated to early childhood home visitation programs. The bill would create a three-year, \$500

million program to help states expand and deliver home visiting services to families with newborns and young children.

As introduced, the bill allows states flexibility in determining an approach to home visitation that best suits their population's needs. Though the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program is specifically referenced in bill language, the definition of eligible home visiting programs is sufficiently broad to include other national models such as HFA.

Though the bill is not likely to move forward this year, PCA America is working closely with PAT and HIPPO on joint advocacy efforts in preparation for a bigger push in the next Congress. In September, following summer recess, Senator Bond is expected to send a letter to colleagues on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee seeking their support for S. 2412. We will be activating our grassroots at that time. A copy of the bill can be downloaded at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>. For more information on the home visiting bill, please contact Lisa Schreiber (312.663.3520 x860) or Jane Ascroft (312.663.3520 x 814).

House Appropriations Committee Approves CAPTA Increase: On July 14th, the House Appropriations Committee approved a spending bill that includes 30% funding increases for CAPTA state grants and community-based prevention grants. The full House has yet to consider the measure.

The House Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee recommended on July 8th that funding for CAPTA state grants (title I) be increased to \$28.5 million in FY05 from \$22 million in FY04, and that CAPTA community-based grants (title II) grow from \$33 million to \$43 million. The full Appropriations Committee approved these subcommittee recommendations a week later.

As you may recall, the President's budget for FY05 requested that funding for CAPTA state and community-based programs be nearly doubled. But budget allotments have been especially tight this year, and we are pleased that the House committee approved the \$16.5 million increase. The Senate has yet to mark up its Labor-HHS appropriations measure. At this point, it is unclear whether final funding levels will be determined before the November 2nd election, or whether a lame duck Congress will be able to complete work on appropriations by the end of the year.

2004 Elections

Information about the 2004 elections can now be accessed through PCA America's legislative action center. For candidate bios, candidates' statements on important issues, or information on voter registration, go directly to <http://capwiz.com/pca/e4/>, or visit our legislative action center (available via our website at www.preventchildabuse.org), and click on "Elections and Candidates".

Elections present important opportunities to raise the issue of child abuse prevention. Nonprofit organizations may participate in the election process provided they remain strictly nonpartisan and abide by specific limitations. Nonpartisan election activities like voter registration, candidate forums, and candidate surveys can raise important issues for debate; have influence on the positions taken by candidates; and build strong relationships with future elected officials.

For more information on what nonprofit organizations can and cannot do in an election year, please see PCA America's new elections advocacy guide, *Election Year Advocacy for Nonprofits*, which can be accessed through our website (<http://www.preventchildabuse.org>) or directly through the following link:

http://www.preventchildabuse.org/get_active/election_year_guide/AdvocacyElectionYear.htm.

At this site, you will also find links to our 2004 Candidate Questionnaire and Letter and the complete *PCA America Advocacy Guide*.

Nonprofits Can Help America Vote!

Announcing a new web resource dedicated to giving nonprofits the tools they need to help their communities vote. Nonprofits are the public's best source of nonpartisan information about candidates and voting procedures. You can help set the stage for greater civic participation - get ideas at <http://www.npaction.org/helpUSvote>>www.npaction.org/helpUSvote!

New Resources

Public Policy Resources

- Science, Policy and the Young Developing Child, Jack P. Shonkoff, Ph.D. examines the current state of early childhood and explores ways to close the gap between what we know and what we do as a society. This report expands on remarks Dr. Shonkoff made at a 20th Anniversary dinner for the Ounce of Prevention Fund in Chicago, Illinois. See here: <http://www.ounceofprevention.org/downloads/publications/shonkoffweb.pdf>
- Beyond Marriage Licenses: Efforts to Strengthen Marriage and Two-Parent Families: A State-by-State Snapshot by Theodora Ooms, Stacey Bouchet, and Mary Parke, provides a state-by-state description of government-related activities to strengthen marriage and/or two-parent families. It includes profiles of seven "high-activity" states and descriptions of at least \$90 million in recent federal grants for marriage-related demonstration projects, technical assistance, and research and evaluation. www.clasp.org
- Child Neglect Demonstration Projects: A Synthesis of Lessons Learned
This publication provides an overview of services and outcomes, common challenges, successful strategies, and lessons learned by 10 Children's Bureau demonstration projects addressing the prevention, intervention, and treatment needs of neglected children and their families. Specific project and contact information is provided in the appendix for readers interested in learning more about individual projects.
<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/candemo/index.cfm>
- Child Welfare Research at the Urban Institute
The Urban Institute's Child Welfare Research Program looks at how we are protecting vulnerable children. The team of researchers evaluates programs, analyzes trends and policies, and designs and performs surveys on kinship care, adoption, child welfare funding, welfare reform, marriage, and parenting.
<http://www.urban.org/content/IssuesInFocus/childwelfareresearch/childwelfare.html>

- KIDS COUNT 2004 Data Book Released
Presents an annual analysis of 10 key measures of well-being for children in the United States. The report was produced by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and represents a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children. A companion Web site focuses on an interactive presentation of data from the annual data book and allows users to generate custom graphs, maps, ranked lists, and state-by-state profiles, as well as to download the entire KIDS COUNT data set as delimited text files. Available at: <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/databook>.
- Results of the National Survey of Early Childhood Health Released
The June 2004 Pediatrics supplement reports results of The National Survey of Early Childhood Health (NSECH), a survey of parents of infants and toddlers. The NSECH was developed to address gaps in information about the content, process, and quality of health supervision for young children, particularly from the perspective of parents. The articles in the supplement represent the first wave of analyses. The information is intended for use by parents, pediatricians, policymakers, and other stakeholders as they seek to improve early childhood health care services. The supplement is available to subscribers at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/current.shtml#SUPPLS1>.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, recently released a report on using parenting programs to prevent child abuse. "Using Evidence-Based Parenting Programs to Advance CDC Efforts in Child Maltreatment Prevention" describes a number of initiatives that the CDC has begun to research. This research brief can be downloaded at the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/parenting/ChildMalt-Briefing.pdf.
- Prevention Fact Sheets: The National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information online toolkit, "Developing and Sustaining Prevention Programs in Tough Times," now offers five downloadable fact sheets for easy printing and distribution.

-Collaborating With Your Community

<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/prevention/develop/collaborate/collaborating.pdf>

-Making an Economic Case for Prevention

<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/prevention/develop/making/economic.pdf>

-Marketing for Prevention

<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/prevention/develop/marketing/marketing.pdf>

-Evaluating Your Prevention Program

<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/prevention/develop/evaluate/evaluating.pdf>

-Funding Your Prevention Program

<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/prevention/develop/funding/funding.pdf>

Funding Resources

Nonprofits looking to raise money through the Internet may find the "Online Fundraising Handbook" useful. Published by Groundspring.org (www.groundspring.org), an organization that helps nonprofits improve their effectiveness through fundraising, this free publication offers guidance on how to make the most of the Web and email to raise money.

Topics include acquiring new donors online, building email lists, and developing a website to engage visitors. Case studies are used to illustrate the concepts discussed, and "idea hot sheets" provide practical tips. An appendix provides links to other online fundraising resources and tools. A free copy of the handbook may be obtained from the Learning Center section of the Groundspring.org website at www.groundspring.org/learningcenter/index.cfm.

Program Resources

- The Head Start Bureau has just released new guides for home visiting:
 - Home-Based Supervisor's Manual for the Head Start Home Based Program Option
<http://www.headstartinfo.org/pdf/EHS-Home-Supervisor.pdf>
 - Home Visitor's Handbook for the Head Start Home Based Program Option
<http://www.headstartinfo.org/pdf/EHS-Home-VisitorHdbk.pdf>
 - Parent's Guide to the Home Based Program Option
<http://www.headstartinfo.org/pdf/EHS-Home-Parents.pdf>
 - Program Administrator's Checklist for the Head Start Home-Based Program Option
<http://www.headstartinfo.org/pdf/EHS-Home-AdminChk.pdf>If these links don't work, go to <http://www.headstartinfo.org> under "What's New"
- Healthy Start, Grow Smart is a magazine series modeled off of First Lady Laura Bush's program in Texas to educate young mothers on the importance of early childhood development. The magazines, printed in English and Spanish, are designed to help new moms stimulate infant brain development and build skills young children will need once they begin school. See: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/firstlady/initiatives/healthystart.html>.
- What Every Pregnant Woman Needs to Know About Cesarean Section summarizes findings from current research on the risks and benefits of cesarean birth compared with vaginal birth. The booklet is intended to help pregnant women understand (1) the factors that can affect whether they have a cesarean birth or a vaginal birth and what to consider in making an informed decision; (2) what it means to give informed consent and informed refusal; (3) situations that can lead to cesarean birth; and (4) tips for avoiding unnecessary cesarean births, assisted vaginal births, and pelvic floor injuries. See: <http://www.maternitywise.org/mw/topics/cesarean/booklet.html>.
- Spanking in Early Childhood and Later Behavior Problems Research published in the May issue of Pediatrics found that spanking children before age 2 is significantly correlated with child behavior problems at school age for white non-Hispanic, but not for black and Hispanic children.
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/113/5/1321>

- New Resource From ZERO TO THREE Press: Emotional Connections: How Relationships Guide Early Learning
Emotional Connections translates new research on cognitive, social, and emotional development in the early years into the language of daily care giving and teaching. The authors give trainers the information and tools they need to teach infant-toddler caregivers how to build responsive relationships with very young children and their families. An instructor's guide is also available that includes teaching strategies; activities; times required for each lesson; and a CD-ROM with printable handouts, worksheets, and overheads. To order copies call toll-free (800) 899-4301 from 9am-5pm Eastern Time, place your order at www.zerotothree.org/bookstore , or fax (703)661-1501.
- Hands Are Not for Hitting Board Book by Martine Agassi, Ph.D.
It's never too soon for children to learn that violence is never okay, hands can do many good things, and everyone is capable of positive, loving actions. In this bright, inviting board book, simple words and full-color illustrations teach these important concepts in ways even very young children can understand. This book can be ordered from Free Spirit Publishing 1-800-735-7323.
www.freespirit.com/catalog/item_detail.cfm?ITEM_ID=93
- Grow Up Great: Happy, Healthy and Ready for School
If you live near a PNC bank, you can pick up this school-readiness kit with a DVD featuring Sesame Street Muppets getting ready for school, a colorful parent/child activity book, and a magazine for preschool parents on health, social and emotional readiness, and language and learning. The kits, created by the Sesame Workshop, are being given free to families and nonprofit early education centers at PNC Bank branches or via 1-877-PNC-GROW. http://www.pncgrowupgreat.com/grow_up_great.html

Conferences

Register Now for the First Online Conference on Abuse of Children and Adults with Disabilities! September 9-29, 2004. 22 one-hour Webinars (online seminars) that you can conveniently attend from any computer connected to the Internet! Plus extensive follow-up support and access to all online materials until August 2005.

22 top experts will provide you and your classmates with 10 hours of contact- through Workshops, Forums, E-lists and Scheduled Chats. Attitudes, Skills and Knowledge (ASK) are reinforced and supported as participants take their training into the field; participants have access to all course content through August 2005! For professionals and workers in the fields of abuse/victimization and/or disabilities. Experts in child abuse, dependent adult and elder abuse will cover: Prevention, Identification & Reporting, Investigation, Interviewing, Prosecution, Victims Services and Treatment. Also features three overarching issues: Legislation Update, Policy, and Communication.

Cost: \$150 for the entire conference. Reduced fee of \$100 per trainee for Agencies sponsoring groups of 10+ trainees. (Scholarships also available, information at www.disability-abuse.com/scholars.htm) Information & Registration: <http://disability-abuse.com>

Key Contact People:

Nora Baladerian, Ph.D., Conference Director (nora@disability-abuse.com)

Tom Hanna, LifeNET eLearning Center (tom@child-abuse.com)

Fifth National Conference on Shaken Baby Syndrome (National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome; September 12 through 15, Montreal, Canada; www.dontshake.com).

Ninth International Conference on Family Violence: Working Together To End Abuse (Family Violence & Sexual Assault Institute; September 17 through 22, San Diego, CA; www.fvsai.org/Conference/9th%20Conference/9thInfo.htm).

15th International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect (International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect; September 19 through 22, Brisbane, Australia; www.congress2004.com).

16th Annual ATTACH Conference on Attachment and Bonding (The Association for Treatment and Training in the Attachment of Children; October 3 through 6, Richmond, VA; www.attach.org/conference_update.htm).

The 10th Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference "Sharing Responsibility for Illinois Children" October 7-8, 2004, Radisson O'Hare Rosemont. For more information contact Mary Salisbury at Prevent Child Abuse Illinois at 217-522-1129 or msalisbury@preventchildabuseillinois.org

2004 Child Welfare League of America Biennial Leadership Summit: "Is the System Broken? Creating the Will, Wisdom and Ways to Meet the Needs of America's Children" (October 20 through 22, Hilton Head, SC; www.cwla.org/conferences/2004biennialrfp.htm).

Thanks for reading SCOOP! We'll see you again in December 2004!

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