

# Council for Children & Families Evidence Based Programs and Criteria for Inclusion

The programs we have chosen with the expertise of the Research Advisory Group have met the criteria for one of the levels of evidence listed below. These are evidence-based programs that impact parenting behaviors. There is empirical evidence that these programs reduce known risk factors and/or enhance known protective factors or (for promising programs) there is a sound theoretical basis for believing that the program's effects are causally related to the reduction of child abuse and neglect.

It is our intention that this list will continue to grow as the body of research on effective prevention of child abuse and neglect programs develops, and we will use the criteria outlined below to determine which programs to include on our list, and at what level of support.

# **LEVEL 1: Best Support**

- 1. At least two good, between group design experiments demonstrating efficacy in one or more of the following ways:
  - a. Superior to an appropriate comparison practice.
  - b. Equivalent to an already established practice in experiments with adequate statistical power.

#### OR

- 2. A large series of single case design experiments (n>30) demonstrating efficacy. These experiments must have:
  - a. Used good experimental design.
  - b. Compared the practice to an appropriate comparison practice.

## AND (Further criteria for both 1 and 2)

- 3. Experiments must be conducted with practice manuals.
- 4. Characteristics of the client samples must be clearly specified.
- 5. Effects must have been demonstrated by at least two different investigators or teams of investigators.
- 6. There are no experimental studies which have found the program to be ineffective in reducing child abuse and neglect or ineffective in reducing risk factors or enhancing protective factors.

# <u>Level 1 Program</u> Nurse-Family Partnership

### **LEVEL 2: Good Support**

1. Two experiments showing the practice is (statistically significantly) superior to a waiting-list control group. *Manuals, specification of samples, and independent investigators are not required.* 

#### OR

- 2. One between group design experiment with clear specification of group, use of manuals, and demonstrating efficacy by either:
  - a. Superior to an appropriate comparison practice.
  - b. Equivalent to an already established practice in experiments with adequate statistical power.

OR

3. A small series of single case design experiments (n>30) with clear specification of group, use of manuals, good experimental designs, and compared the intervention to another practice.

AND (Further criteria for 1, 2, and 3)

4. There are no experimental studies which have found the program to be ineffective in reducing child abuse and neglect or ineffective in reducing risk factors or enhancing protective factors.

#### Level 2 Programs

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)
Parent-Child Home Program
Parent Child Interaction Therapy
The Incredible Years
Triple P – Positive Parenting Program

## **LEVEL 3: Promising Practice\*\***

- 1. The practice has a sound theoretical basis and has been demonstrated to be effective with another target behavior.
- 2. A substantial clinical-anecdotal literature exists indicating the practice's value with parenting behavior.
- 3. The treatment is generally accepted in practice as appropriate for achieving the target outcomes.
- 4. There is no clinical or empirical evidence or theoretical basis indicating that the practice constitutes a substantial risk of harm to those receiving it, compared to its likely benefits.
- 5. The practice has a book, manual, or other available writings that specifies the components of the practice protocol and describes how to implement it.
- 6. If multiple outcome studies have been conducted, the overall weight of the evidence supports the efficacy of the practice.
- \*\* All Promising Practice level programs will be required to look closely at long term outcomes and participate in research that would help solidify the outcome findings.

Level 3 Programs
Circle of Security
Effective Black Parenting
Healthy Families New York
Intensive Home Visiting Programs for At-Risk Mothers (Multiple)
Los Ninos Bien Educados
Nurturing Parenting Program
Parents as Teachers
Project SafeCare
Promoting First Relationships
Strengthening Multi-Ethnic Families

We would like to thank the members of the CCF Research Advisory Group for their incredible work on this project:

Kathryn Barnard Ph.D., Lucy Berliner MSW, Kevin Haggerty MSW, Todd Herrenkohl Ph.D., Garrison Kurtz, Nita Lynn M.Ed., Yaffa Maritz MA, Mary Ann Murphy MS, Dana Phelps M.Ed., Jeanette Valentine Ph.D. and Dee Wilson MSW