



Back to School

Summer is winding down and children are heading back to school. Unfortunately, many young children are missing out on social, developmental and educational opportunities as their parents are not aware of the important role early learning environments play in brain development and long-term academic success. Additionally, parents may not be aware of free or subsidized early learning opportunities available in their community. As service providers, we are often positioned to be able to educate parents on community resources like Head Start and Early Learning programs. Not only are these programs important for child development, they often offer opportunities for parents, especially single parents, to develop a support network of individuals and services that strengthen the whole family. I hope the tips and resources below are helpful to you in educating yourself and the families you serve on the importance of these programs.

Best Regards,

Robyn Cenizal, CFLE
Project Director



Tip of the Month

One of the keys to academic success is a healthy family relationship, including a strong parent-child bond. For that reason, it makes sense that Head Start and other early learning programs provide both family strengthening services and educational activities. This [Resource Center tip sheet](#) explains why healthy marriage and relationship education fits naturally into early childhood programs, and how its integration leads to stronger families and better school performance.

- Contextualize healthy marriage and relationship education using our [Virtual Training Center](#) courses on [financial management](#), [parenting](#), and other aspects of family life.
- Deliver information in a [culturally responsive way](#).
- Provide [helpful resources](#) and other supports (e.g. child care, snacks) to encourage parents participation and learning.



Featured Resources

The Resource Center's [Virtual Library](#) has collected approximately 1200 materials in a variety of formats including fact sheets, research-to-practice briefs, brochures, pamphlets, training resources, program reports or evaluations, and research materials.

Select the links below to view our featured September resources:

- **Compendium of Parenting Interventions**
Intended for early care and education staff and directors, parents, and educators and leaders of programs, schools, communities, and state initiatives, this compendium presents evidence-based parenting interventions that are most likely to be effective with families of young children. It begins by defining parenting interventions, emphasizing the importance of early intervention, and explaining the purpose of the continuum. A table is provided that includes a brief description, child outcomes, etc.
- **Innovating in Early Head Start: Can Reducing Toxic Stress Improve Outcomes for Young Children?**
This article explains how the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is seizing on the science of early childhood development and using the home-visiting Early Head Start program to build responsive caregiving and help alleviate the effects of toxic stress. It highlights the activities of six research projects funded by ACF that are testing different interventions.

- **Basic Facts About Low-Income Children: Children Under 3 Years, 2014**

This fact sheet explains that 47% of the more than 11 million infants and toddlers under the age of three in the U.S. live in low-income families, with 24% living in poor families. Statistics are provided to show that the portion of infants and toddlers living in low-income families rose from 44% in 2008 to 47% in 2014. Demographic, geographic and socioeconomic factors are also discussed.



Events

The Resource Center's [Events Calendar](#) offers a listing of Resource Center events and other national, regional, and community-wide events that might be of interest. Upcoming events include:

- **National Council on Crime and Delinquency Conference on Children, Youth, and Families: Creating Solutions in Orange County, CA, October 4-6, 2016**

This conference is a platform for professionals in the child welfare, juvenile justice, and education fields to share new and innovative programs and research related to systems that serve children, youth, and families.

- **The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) 47th Annual Convention & Trade Show in Reno, NV, October 5-8, 2016**

The 2016 NIEA Convention theme: Building Education Nations by Engaging Families, Educators, and Leaders, brings together educators, students, and advocates sharing promising teaching strategies and seeking solutions for challenges faced by Native students.

Will you be attending? If so, be sure to come visit our exhibit booth!

Feedback and Technical Assistance

If you have suggestions or wish to speak with a Resource Center staff member, please [contact us](#) and we will be happy to assist you. If you would like to request technical assistance, please submit a [Training and Technical Assistance Request Form](#) and our Technical Assistance Coordinator will contact you.

To learn more about the Resource Center visit us at www.healthymarriageandfamilies.org

The National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families supports safety-net service providers as they integrate healthy marriage and relationship education skills into service delivery systems as part of a comprehensive, culturally appropriate, family-centered approach designed to promote self-sufficiency.

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