## **HomeFirst Strategies**

- 1) Develop and monitor Family Service Plans for families, based on the needs of their 0-5 children.
- 2) Trained Family Support Specialists conduct regular home visits to promote nurturing parent/child relationships.
- 3) Home visits include child-centered activities appropriate to child and family needs to achieve developmental milestones.
- 4) Within a multi-disciplinary case coordination approach, families are linked to resources meeting their needs.
- 5) Home visitors monitor childhood immunizations to ensure that homes are "medical homes."
- **6)** Develop and provide leadership training for parents who want to share childhood development knowledge with other parents of children 0-5.

## PARENT LEADERSHIP SURVEYS

FY 2005-06

N = 14

- 1) Did the services provided respect my language, beliefs and cultural values?
  - 12 Strongly Agree 2 Agree
- 2) I was treated professionally by all staff.
  - 11 Strongly Agree 3 Agree
- 3) My primary transportation is:
  - 10 Car 1 Bus 3 Walk
- 4) Has your home visitor provided activities that promote your child's healthy development?
  - 14 -- Yes
  - ✓ Information about feeding
  - ✓ A phonic game
  - ✓ Activities to do with my 8 month-old
  - ✓ She taught my daughter to tie her shoes
  - ✓ Learning games and reading books
  - ✓ Health information
  - ✓ Stacking blocks and shape sorters
  - ✓ Legos for fine motor development

- 5) What skills did you learn from your home visitor?
  - ✓ Tummy time; tracking; reaching
  - ✓ Improved self-esteem; how to teach my daughter
  - ✓ Better nutrition, baby care and breastfeeding information
  - ✓ To be more independent; know about cognitive development
  - ✓ Patience and how to play with my kids
  - ✓ How to take care of my baby
  - ✓ That children can obey without yelling at them or spanking
  - ✓ Potty training and how to cope with tantrums
- 6) Are you more confident in your parenting knowledge?
  - 14 -- Yes
  - ✓ Before, I didn't even know how to hold my baby
  - ✓ Knowing they need me to spend time with them—I got it!
  - ✓ I listen to my kids better
  - ✓ To use positive discipline, instead of hitting
  - ✓ I feel confident as a parent; I am not afraid to go out anymore, like before the home visitor came to my house
  - ✓ I had many problems, but now I do not
  - ✓ I know he is developing at the right pace and we are teaching the right things at the right pace
  - ✓ Yes, I can share with others
  - √ I am more confident as a parent
- 7) How have you shared parenting knowledge you learned about child development with other parents? What information? With whom?
  - 14 -- Yes
- ✓ Shared with my boyfriend about tummy time
- ✓ With my sister-in-law; child activities and what kind of games to play for the ages of her children
- ✓ With my friends; nutrition and baby care

- ✓ With my roommate and friends; different stages for babies and safety issues
- ✓ With my friends; I even took them to the FRC to get services
- ✓ With my partner and my daughter; child development
- ✓ With my niece and great-nephew; all the information I get
- ✓ With friends; I just faxed breastfeeding information to someone
  who had a new baby
- 8) What leadership role do you serve within your family, neighborhood or community?
  - ✓ I am the only one in my family that is clean and sober; I can get all of my son's needs met
  - ✓ I am the oldest sibling and I take care of my family
  - ✓ I lead within the community; I also provide information to friends and family as much as I can
  - ✓ Within my family as a mom; I am now a Senior within the New Leaf program
  - ✓ My leadership is within my own family
  - ✓ I am the monetary provider and mother
  - ✓ I feel I am a role model and teacher for my church, neighborhood, my children and my friends

## **REASONS FAMILIES LEFT THE PROGRAM**

# Cases Closed 7/1/05 through 6/30/06

Family Achieved Goals	9
Family Moved from Area	10
Client Request	8
Lack of Client Contact	11
<b>Entered Alternate Program</b>	5
Child No Longer in Home	2
TOTAL	45

## Cases Closed 7/1/06 through 9/30/06

Family Achieved Goals	
Family Moved from Area	5
Client Request	
Lack of Client Contact	
<b>Entered Alternate Program</b>	
Child No Longer in Home	
TOTAL	5





### **HOMEFIRST AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY**

For all families active from 7/1/05-6/30/06 and closed prior to FY 06-07

- Average length of stay in HomeFirst = 268 days (8.9 months)
- Shortest length of stay = 7 days
- Longest length of stay = 1,057 days (2.89 years)

#### **BARRIERS HOMEFIRST PARENTS FACE**

- History of depression or other mental health issue
- Lack of social support
- Domestic violence
- History of substance abuse
- Family history of child abuse or neglect
- Language issues
- Lack of preparation for stress of new infant
- Multiple young children
- Limited income
- Lack of parenting skills
- Low self-esteem
- Single parent
- Emotional immaturity

### **FAMILY QUOTES**

"Since you have visited us, I started working on positive discipline and noticed that my son has fewer tantrums. Now he doesn't hit himself against the wall and he doesn't hit me anymore. He has learned to touch gently and throw a ball and other things softly. I encourage him to repeat words after me and he is improving his vocabulary. Since you started to sing to him, he always wants me to sing to him every moment and he loves to read with me. I think his behavior has noticeably improved."

"My two-year-old daughter loves floor time and I do, too. During the home visits, I have learned how to listen to my kids, how to have better communication with my daughter. Now I pay more attention to my menus, making sure they eat healthy food. I help my daughter to improve her vocabulary by asking her to repeat and pronounce words. I even bought some Legos and puzzles to help in her development. Now I enjoy spending time with my 4 month-old baby and my daughter. Even my husband has changed."