

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

Early Prevention and Intervention Opportunities

Linda Harris, Program Director September 9, 2015

Office of Early Childhood

Our Vision

 All young children in Connecticut are safe, healthy, learning and thriving. Each child is surrounded by a strong network of nurturing adults who deeply value the importance of the first years of a child's life and have the skills, knowledge, support and passion to meet the unique needs of every child.

Our Mission

 To support all young children in their development by ensuring that early childhood policy, funding and services strengthen the critical role families, providers, educators and communities play in a child's life.



Office of Early Childhood

Our Work

 Provides funding, standards, regulations, training and oversight to ensure that early care and education programs for young children

are safe, healthy and nurturing;

effectively support children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development; and,

are accessible to all children, particularly those facing barriers, risks or challenges to their healthy development and success.

 Provides home visiting services, funding and training to support families raising young children to ensure the children's health, wellbeing and positive growth and development and to prevent child abuse or neglect.



Office of Early Childhood

Funds Four Evidence Based Home Visiting Programs Models

- Child First
- Early Head Start Home Based Option
- Nurse Family Partnership
- Nurturing Families Network Parents As Teachers



Nurturing Families Network Program Home Visiting Preservice Requirement

Preparing Staff to Identify and Respond to Family Violence (Domestic Violence and Child Abuse and Neglect)



Nurturing Families Network Program Home Visiting Training Provided by OEC

- Importance of Engaging Fathers Real Dads Forever, Doug Edwards
- Fathers Exploring the Role as Leaders 24-7 Dad
- Fathers as Nurturers Nurturing Fathers, Mark Perlman
- The Intersection Between Fatherhood and Domestic Violence-David Mandell & Associates, LLC-
- Touchpoints



Tools Used to Assess Risk

- Revised Early Identification Screen
 - Families screened starting during pregnancy or until child is three months old

- Family Stress Checklist Assessment
 - Completed with family after agreeing to participate in home visiting



Total Number Parents Enrolled 2012-2014



3

Four Targeted Areas of Intervention

- Nurturing Parenting
- Healthy Families
- Parent Life Outcomes
- School Readiness



Families and Children Served 2012-2014





NFN Families with Acute Problems Policy

Parents experiencing current or recent problems causing an acute crisis related to mental health, exposure to violence including domestic violence or substance abuse

- Site Options
- Following the crisis



Parents Acute at Program Enrollment 2012-2014





Families Identified as Acute During 2012-2014





Current Study Underway

Child Outcome Study

