

Family Support Program Research Summary for 2005

The following is a summary and implementation response to the Research Evaluation

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1. Statistically significant changes were noted through the evaluation in the area of social skills. There was a significant decrease in the area of the child's peer problems. At the same time there was an increase in the child's positive social skills. We will continue to use the materials developed for this area and collaborate with educators to assure the child's success in different arenas of their lives.
2. Although it did not test statistically significant the research did show that there was an increase in the children's problematic behavior and the anxiety/depression level of the child. One possible explanation for this finding is that passive parents had begun the process of identifying and addressing problematic behaviors through setting boundaries. Therefore, we may need to modify our interventions in the discipline area because although the parents are becoming more active in their child's life the gains are not quick enough to keep up with the changes in children's behavior.
3. One other problem noted was that the workers were not successful increasing families' connection to other ongoing community resources to support longer term stabilization. A plan to help our workers become better educated and gain more skills in these areas is being developed and will be implemented in our services during the first 6 months of 2006. On the other hand in all areas of social support the evaluation showed a positive increase. Parents and families grew in the quality and numbers in their social support networks. We will continue to use our material and skills in this area in response to the statistically significant success noted in the evaluation.
4. An area of success was in the improvement in the children's health. Parents reported a decrease in children's acute health problems and an increase in resistance to illness. We will continue to use our education materials in these areas and collaborate with medical professionals in each community we provide services.

5. Last the research showed strong positive ratings in respondents' satisfaction with the services provided, and the reported considerable positive change occurring in their family as a result of treatment. It is interesting that the family support workers tended to rate the amount of change slightly lower than the family respondents. Dr. Andersen in her research summary suggested that this finding may be due to the tendency for treatment providers to be more conservative in their estimates of change than families.