



In-Home Family Education

FACT SHEET

Why is in-home family education important?

Parenting is a rewarding, yet challenging job and all parents can use information and support. In-Home Family Education is a powerful strategy to support parents and promote positive childhood experiences. These programs build “protective factors” which enable families to deal more successfully with whatever challenges arise and help families avoid or cope with negative experiences that could otherwise lead to poor outcomes for their children. Early childhood experiences determine a child’s early brain development and lay the foundation for the emotional and intellectual development of a child. In-Home Family Education encourages parents to maximize opportunities for optimum brain development. In-Home Family Education programs reduce the need for more costly services, such as special education, unintended pregnancies, hospitalizations, and emergency room visits.

What is the benefit of a program like this?

In-Home Family Education is a voluntary program providing parenting education and support to families with young children in their homes. Educators are from the community they serve and offer families a nonjudgmental listening ear. They help parents understand their role as their child’s first and most important teacher. Educators emphasize each family’s strengths and assist the family in reaching their goals.

In-Home Family Education services promote prenatal and child health by helping families access prenatal care, well-baby care and immunizations. Healthy lifestyles are encouraged. Parenting skills, knowledge and behavior are improved by sharing child development information and conducting developmental screenings. Parents receive information and support for various parenting challenges, such as discipline and potty training. Educators also link families to a wide array of resources in their community.

In the state of West Virginia, program models include Healthy Families America, Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker (MIHOW) and Parents As Teachers. Families are offered services regardless of income level. Home visits are at least monthly and depending on the program, services are provided for either three or five years. Families also have the opportunity to participate in group activities and socializations.



To find a local program and get more information, visit our website at www.inhomefamilyed.com