

Mental Health Services: Parent Involvement/Education

POLICY:

Staff will assist parents in better understanding their child's behavior and mental health issues.

- *This policy relates to Head Start Performance Standards 45 CFR Part 1304.24, 1304.40*

PROCEDURE:

1. Parent observation and information regarding their child's behavior and mental wellness will be solicited through;
 - a. Parent Information/Observation forms completed during screening or at the time of enrollment;
 - b. Completion of the child's health history;
 - c. Discussions during home visits and conferences.
2. Teachers will share information regarding their observation with parents during home visits and conferences, and at any time the child displays any atypical behavior. This will include separation and attachment issues.
3. During parent contacts, staff will discuss and provide parents with literature, as well as specific techniques and/or recommendations on how to respond appropriately to their child's behavior.
4. Parents will receive information on how to strength nurturing, supportive, environments and relationships through training, printed materials and referral for counseling.
5. Parents will be helped to better understand mental health issues through literature/printed materials, individual consultations and group training. Referral to parenting classes or mental health counseling will be made according to the specific needs of each family.