

THE BOGGS CENTER ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

New Jersey's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service

What Happens After Developmental Screening: Connecting Families to Local Resources

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Project Description

The Boggs Center, in partnership with the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) was awarded a two-year grant from the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) to provide parent-led training sessions and informational materials to early childhood educators and staff at Head Start centers across the state. The goals of this initiative are to increase Head Start staff members' developmental screening, monitoring, and referral practices, as well as to connect at-risk underserved children and their families to local, community, and state organizations.

Through collaboration with SPAN and New Jersey's Department and Children and Families, this project has provided opportunities to build connections with Head Start programs throughout the state and strengthen ongoing efforts and partnerships among Act Early State Team members.

Thanks to Our Partners:



Statewide Parent Advocacy Network



Training a Evaluation

Parent-led training sessions include an overview of the project; sharing of parent experiences with screening, evaluation, and diagnosis; discussion of red flags and monitoring; tips for talking with parents about developmental concerns, including cultural and linguistic considerations, and a description of project resources. Training topics were selected based on the results of a brief Training & Resource Needs survey distributed to Directors of Participating Head Start/

- 95% of training participants surveyed reported increased comfort with communicating concerns about developmental delay to parents
- 92% reported increased knowledge of Learn the Signs. Act Early. materials
- 100% found the resources useful to the work they do

Early Head Start programs.
To date, 7 trainings have been attended by a total of 88 Head Start/Early Head Start staff.

Malerials & Resources

As a compliment to the information presented during parent-led training sessions, participating Head Start/Early Head Start programs receive Learn the Signs. Act Early. materials, community-specific resource binders and county-based flow charts developed as part of this project. The flow charts provide a starting point to connect with state and local resources when developmental concerns are identified. A statewide version has been developed as a magnet and is now available in English and Spanish.

of training
agreed that they
resources to families

100%

of training
agreed that surveyed
intend to provide the
they serve



