

Initial and Sustained Engagement of Latina Mothers in Legacy for Children™: A Group-Based Parenting Program for Children

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INTRODUCTION

- Early intervention is key in promoting healthy child development. Therefore, targeting early parent-child interactions and child development programs could potentially enhance child outcomes and engagement in early childhood education (NASEM, 2016).
- One such potential program is the recent adaptation and cultural enhancement of the Legacy for Children™ (Legacy) program (Perou et al, 2012).
- **Legacy** is a group-based prevention program designed to promote child development through:
 - Strengthening the parent-child relationship
 - Promoting maternal self-efficacy
 - Strengthen mothers' social support
- **Legacy** program goals include the promotion of:
 - Responsive, sensitive mother-child relationships
 - Maternal responsibility, investment, and devotion of time and energy
 - Mothers' sense of community
 - Mothers' facilitation of their children's verbal and cognitive development
 - Support mothers as guides to the children's behavioral and emotional regulation

PURPOSE

The current study seeks to understand factors related to initial and sustained engagement in a community based parenting program focused on Latina mothers.

METHODOLOGY

- A purposive sampling technique was used to interview a sample of low-income Latino mothers of young children enrolled in the Legacy program.
- Data collection by Spanish-Speaking qualitative interviewers took place from January 2016- January 2017 (N=26).
- Qualitative interviews took place at the same time and location as regular group meetings after the 10 week blocks.
- All interviews lasted approximately one hour and were transcribed and cross checked for accuracy.
- Qualitative analysis of individual interviews was conducted using NVivo 11 to identify broad themes from Latina mother responses.
- Analysis was completed by three qualitative researchers with an inter-coder reliability of over 85% . Further, all coding discrepancies were resolved through meetings with the broader research team.



RESULTS

Program Location and Logistics

Initial Engagement

- Recruitment Strategies
 - Providing Program Information:
 - Describes the focus and content of the program
 - Includes focus on child development
 - Early Interaction with Mother and Child:
 - Telephone calls with family
 - Home visits
- Improving Recruitment
 - Provide Additional Program Information:
 - Communicate about program content, process, structure, and positive impact on children
 - Enhance Program Advertisement:
 - Advertise at hospitals, radio, social media, and via brochures
 - Encourage Mothers:
 - Provide encouragement due to the challenges of parenting

Sustained Engagement

- Support From Other Mothers
 - Enjoy sharing experiences with other mothers
 - Enjoy socializing with other mothers
- Family Benefit from Program Content and Process
 - Parenting information
 - Family benefits
 - Child benefits
- Provision of Childcare and Compensation
- Group Leader Actions and Qualities
 - Regular phone calls during breaks
 - Group leader qualities:
 - Kind -Fair
 - Teaching skills and experience -Persistent
 - Enjoys teaching -Positive
 - Respectful -Motivating
 - Interested in families

CONCLUSION

- Results from the current study suggest the potential engagement benefits of supporting Latino parents with culturally congruent parenting-focused prevention programs.
- Participants indicated that the family experiencing benefits from the program (e.g., receipt of parenting information, child socialization and school readiness opportunities) are key to sustained parent engagement.
- Future directions should focus on integrating key areas of initial and sustained engagement factors into programs to ensure engagement of families.
- It is also recommended that group leader actions and characteristics are addressed in selection and training so that group leaders can understand their role in initial and sustained engagement.

REFERENCES

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- Perou, R., Elliott, M. N., Visser, S. N., Claussen, A. H., Scott, K. G., Beckwith, L. H., ... Smith, D. C. (2012). Legacy for Children™: A pair of randomized controlled trials of a public health model to improve developmental outcomes among children in poverty. BMC Public Health, 12, 691. doi:10.1186/1471-2458-12-691



“When you’re a mom, there’s nothing to do with cultures because we’re all moms and ...because it’s obvious we all want the best for our children.”

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