



# PARENT-CHILD HOME PROGRAM

## A PROVEN BEGINNING FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS SINCE 1965

### The National Diffusion Network

For more than 20 years, the National Diffusion Network (NDN) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education to help educators share effective practices around the country. Funding of the NDN ceased in 1996. The National Diffusion Network had several components, most central were Developer Demonstrators, educational innovations that had been rigorously reviewed and validated by a federal panel, the Joint Dissemination Review Panel. The Parent-Child Home Program (then The Mother-Child Home Program) was included as one of these validated educational innovations. A catalog of the Developer Demonstrators, *Educational Programs That Work*, was published annually by Sopris West, and distributed nationally. The following is The Program description from the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition, published in 1996.

#### **Mother-Child Home Program (MCHP) of the Verbal Interaction Project, Inc.**

A nondidactic, home-based program to prevent educational disadvantage in two- to four-year old children of parents with low income and limited education, and to foster parents' literacy and self-esteem, by enhancing parent-child verbal interaction. JDRP approved for two-year olds at risk for educational disadvantage.

**Description** The Mother-Child Home Program (MCHP) of the Verbal Interaction Project, Inc. theory is that cognitive and social-emotional growth results from the playful exchange between parent and child of conceptually rich language around permanently assigned curriculum materials (books and toys). In twice-weekly play with these materials in Home Sessions, "Toy Demonstrators" (home visitors) model for the parent a curriculum of verbal and other positive interaction with their children. Weekly Guide Sheets contain a fun-filled curriculum illustrated by the current book or toy. Among 29 adoptions, children at risk for educational disadvantage at age two were no longer so after two years of the MCHP. Program graduates met national achievement test norms in elementary school and graduated from high school at a normal rate. Effectiveness evidence and adoption training information are available at the National Center for Mother-Child Home Program.

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In 1997, The Mother-Child Home Program was renamed The Parent-Child Home Program.