



PARENT-CHILD HOME PROGRAM

A PROVEN BEGINNING FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS SINCE 1965

2015 Annual Parent-Child Home Program Conference

AGENDA

KEY	All workshops are open to everyone, unless specified.
HV:	Workshop appropriate for Home Visitors
C:	Workshop appropriate for Coordinators
PS:	Workshop is “program specific” pertaining specifically to The Parent-Child Home Program
EC/FS:	Workshop covers an Early Childhood or Family Support topic, appropriate, but not specific to The Parent-Child Home Program

MONDAY, MAY 4th

8 AM – 9 AM – Registration/Breakfast/Exhibits – GRAND BALLROOM, CONFERENCE MARKETPLACE

9 AM – 10:30 AM – Welcome and Opening Keynote – GRAND BALLROOM

“Promoting Early Language and Cognitive Development Through High Quality Early Communicative Interactions” – Meredith Rowe, PhD, Associate Professor, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Recent research in developmental psychology and education points to the fact that it is not the amount of talk that parents have with their children that matters the most, but the quality of these communicative interactions. In this speech, Dr. Rowe will draw on her own research and that of others to highlight the different features of communicative interactions that are most beneficial for language and cognitive development at different ages during early childhood. As an example, she will demonstrate how more repetitive speech is helpful for younger children, while using diverse vocabulary and abstract causal explanations is helpful for preschool children. Discussion will also focus on how much parents (mothers and fathers) vary in the speech they use with children, where this variability comes from, and strategies for supporting the quality of parents’ interactions with children.

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Exhibits – CONFERENCE MARKETPLACE

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM – Workshops

1. If Our Words Had the Power to Change our Children's Worlds: Guided Memoir as a Tool for Understanding, Empowerment, and Voice (Part One) – Erika Duncan, Executive and Artistic Director; and Susan Liguori, Associate Director, Herstory Writers Workshop (C, HV)

This two-part workshop will engage participants in a hands-on experience, using guided memoir writing as a tool for understanding and empowerment to change children's and families' worlds. Emphasis will be on strategies to draw on oral language to begin to give written voice to people with low literacy skills – a strategy meant to trickle down to one's children in a true community effort. Participants will learn how to help those with little voice in the decisions most affecting their lives to create a grassroots literature powerful enough to move legislators, policy makers, and community advocates. These techniques may be used by PCHP Coordinators with their Home Visitors as a self-reflection tool; or with parent, child care, or kin-care provider groups.

Part One of this workshop will introduce participants to the Herstory approach and their partnership with the Children's Defense Fund's systems building initiative, which has included Head Start programs, programs for teen parents, and domestic violence retreats. Herstory's founder will then guide the group into the creation of a model page one story of their own lives. She will show participants how this can be done in a way that transforms trauma and pain into building on the power and spirit of each narrator's rendition.

Halfway into this workshop, there will be a 20-minute writing break, followed by a reading of what has been produced by the group and discussion of how this can be replicated with Home Visitors or parents.

2. Books Building Partnerships: Engaging Parents and Community Partners through Literacy – Candace Randowski, Manager, National Engagement, First Book (C, EC/FS)

First Book is a national non-profit social enterprise that provides access to free and low cost books to programs serving children in low income communities. First Book partners with thought leaders and educational experts to provide resources that support early language and literacy development, as well as family engagement. This workshop showcases examples of how book distributions and special events with First Book have created community-level partnerships that strengthen connections between multiple agencies working with low income families. Participants will have the opportunity to think about how First Book could help them work more collaboratively with agencies and schools in their communities. Join us to learn how to access First Book's resources for your program.

3. Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors – Sara Spatz, PCHP Program Director, United Way of Central New Jersey (C, HV, EC/FS)

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors (AP) is the nation's first evidence-based parent leadership program designed by and for Latino parents with children ages 0-5. Using a two-generation approach, AP aims to increase the number of Latino children in the United States who enter school ready to learn and able to succeed in life. In this workshop, participants will experience AP firsthand, and will learn how to incorporate the program into their PCHP sites.

4. Attachment Relationships in Stressful Environments: Theory, Research, and Intervention – Kristin Bernard, PhD, Assistant Professor, Psychology Department, Stony Brook University (C, HV, EC/FS)

In this workshop, Dr. Bernard will describe key principles of attachment theory, highlighting the protective role of sensitive parenting for children growing up in stressful environments. The workshop will combine research and clinical perspectives in considering the needs of high-risk families, with a focus on how attachment theory can inform early prevention and intervention approaches.

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM – Buffet Lunch – GRAND BALLROOM

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM – Exhibits/Networking – CONFERENCE MARKETPLACE

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM – Workshops

1. Working with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Families – Catherine Cueva, Coordinator, Variety Child Learning Center ABA Program (C, HV, EC/FS)

Working with families and their children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds may present unique challenges for educators and professionals. This workshop will increase your awareness of cultural differences and similarities, while giving you tools to explore and establish a positive relationship with all the families and children you serve, regardless of race, language, religion, ability/disability, and cultural practices. The goal of this workshop is to increase your cultural competence through interactive engagement, group exercises, and demonstrations.

2. The Art of Hiring a Male Home Visitor – Ayan Musse, PCHP Program Supervisor and Johar Bakaal, PCHP Home Visitor, Children’s Home Society, Seattle, WA (C, HV, PS)

This workshop is designed for PCHP sites interested in hiring male home visitors, but not sure if or how this could work at their site. The presenters will discuss the hiring process and the benefits of having male home visitors. They will share approaches, including looking at your site’s needs; interview questions; qualities to look for; which families might best benefit from a male Home Visitor; the benefits to families; and the benefits to your overall program; and share a video featuring a male home visitor and family.

3. If Our Words Had the Power to Change our Children’s Worlds: Guided Memoir as a Tool for Understanding, Empowerment, and Voice (Part Two) – Erika Duncan, Executive and Artistic Director; and Susan Liguori, Associate Director, Herstory Writers Workshop (C, HV)

Participants from Part One of this workshop will come back together to discuss their impressions of the process and how they might use it with their constituencies in their ongoing work. We will discuss methods of working with those with low literacy skills or serious trauma; shaping stories that will inspire sustained interest and effort; maintaining an empowerment rather than

therapeutic modality of working; and addressing approaches that maintain level ground across literacy levels and narrative and interactive techniques to keep younger writers focused on making a difference. We will brainstorm how the process could support Home Visitor training and how the process can potentially be used with parents.

4. Kindermusik’s ABC Music and Me – Sharon Gustin, ABC Music and Me Education Manager (HV, EC/FS)

ABC Music and Me can be easily used in home visits. Music can be used to engage children and exercise their developing skills, while an integrated parent component helps caregivers work on multiple-learning domains and areas of cognitive development in fun and literacy-rich ways. The goal is to help parents be the best educators for their children. Language and literacy activities, story time, and an album of songs, poems, rhymes, and sounds, plus instruments, make it easy to connect with families and have them create their own fun activities. This will be a hands-on workshop, so be ready to make some music!

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

Coordinators’ Forum – Cobi Dunn, PCHP Director, Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County (C) – GRAND BALLROOM, SECTION 4

This is a networking opportunity for all PCHP Coordinators to come together and experience a self-reflective exercise, meet Coordinators with share their challenges and triumphs, and exchange ideas.

Home Visitors’ Forum – Pamela Williams, PCHP WA State Lead (HV) – GRAND BALLROOM, SECTION 5 & 6

A networking opportunity for all PCHP Home Visitors. We will be focusing on the challenge of keeping appropriate boundaries during home visits.

TUESDAY, MAY 5th

8 AM – 8:45 AM – Breakfast - GRAND BALLROOM

8:45 AM – 10:00 AM - Keynote

Adverse Childhood Experiences, Health, and Behavior: The Science of Risk – *Anthony Zenkus, Director of Education, The Safe Center*

The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study demonstrated how abuse and neglect in childhood are significantly correlated with poor health and behavioral outcomes throughout the lifespan. Addictions, mental illness, behavioral disorders, suicidality, and aggression were all more likely to occur when a person had suffered multiple adversities as a child. The presence of low socioeconomic status made these adversities even more likely. This study is a game-changer, as it informs us that much of what was thought about behavior being genetically predetermined was

not true. The environment in the early years of life is the single biggest influence on a host of sequela, from depression to drug use and more, and low socioeconomic status is one of the single biggest correlates with these adversities. This keynote will explain the science to non-scientists so they can understand how this information impacts their work with families and what they can do to mitigate adversity's negative effects.

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM - Workshops

1. Working Towards Trauma Informed Home Visits – Emily Bergstrom, PCHP Supervisor, Children's Home Society, Seattle, WA (C, HV, PS)

This workshop will provide strategies and tools for Home Visitors to use in some of the challenging situations they encounter. The presenter will explain and discuss topics including the “serve and return” method and tips for trauma-informed home visits. These strategies will focus on engaging with families in a variety of scenarios that build a trauma-informed foundation.

2. Community Partnerships in Culturally Diverse Communities: Building (Structurally Sound) Bridges – Maureen Manning, Director of Beyond School Time & Family Engagement, Wareham, MA Public Schools; and Tina Toran, CFCE Coordinator, Falmouth, MA Public Schools (C, EC/FS)

This interactive workshop will focus on strengthening partnerships in diverse communities. Community partnerships strengthen your program's ability to accomplish its mission by providing additional support in workforce, materials, and outreach, making your Parent-Child Home Program stronger and more meaningful. Presenters will work with participants to create a series of action steps that will overcome obstacles and invigorate any program's community engagement plan. Participants will learn how to create dynamic new partnerships as well as revitalize existing ones.

3. Supporting Children in Being Emotionally Ready for School – Jayne Singer, PhD, Clinical Director, Child and Parent Program Developmental Medicine Center, Brazelton Touchpoints Center, Boston Children's Hospital (C, HV, EC/FS)

Emotional attachment is the foundation of children's basic trust, self-esteem, ability to sustain healthy relationships, and readiness for school. This session offers participants an interactive discussion with videos to guide the participants in discovering how and why a young child's emotional competence is the foundation of all other domains of development. We will examine how development is not simply a maturational process but is interwoven with early relationships.

4. Building a Two-Year VISM Curriculum – – Emily Leonard, PCHP Site Manager, Jericho Roads Ministries, Buffalo, NY (C, HV, PS)

This workshop will focus on building a purposeful VISM curriculum over a two-year program designed for maximum engagement and participation. Topics will include themes, maintaining interest through active involvement, budget-friendly props for the Home Visitor's bag, and much more! This hands-on workshop will include resource and idea-sharing, extension activities, and practical applications for strengthening your PCHP curriculum.

11:45AM – 1:15 PM – Workshops

- 1. Bringing Executive Functions Home – Cobi Dunn, PCHP Director, Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County; Jennifer Abaid, PCHP Coordinator, Boys Town of South Florida; Amanda Escalante, PCHP Coordinator, Guatemalan-Mayan Center; Mathilde Ambroise, PCHP Coordinator, Noah, Inc. (C, HV, PS)**

A new evidence base has identified a set of skills essential for school achievement that are called Executive Functions. In this workshop, participants will learn more about these skills, and how to incorporate activities into their home visits that will help develop their clients' executive functions.

- 2. The Family Development Credential – Angela Zimmerman, Coordinator, Family Support Long Island and Dawn Daniello, Infant-Toddler Manager, Child Care Council of Nassau (C, HV, EC/FS)**

The Family Development Credential (FDC) is a 90-hour professional development course to teach frontline workers how to coach families and reach their goals for healthy self-reliance. Initially based on Cornell University research, and now housed at the University of Connecticut, the FDC is available in many states across the country with great success. Come learn about the overall content of FDC; core competencies of the course; and the credentialing process. Participants will also experience a hands-on activity from the FDC course, to gain a better sense of what the FDC training is all about.

- 3. Homeless Families and PCHP – Tammi McGinn, Faith Partnerships and Family Mentors Coordinator, Metropolitan Ministries, Tampa, FL; Jay Molina, Director of Compassion & Action Department, Metropolitan Ministries, Tampa, FL; and Sarah Benjamin, PCHP Coordinator, Community Action Southold Town, Greenport, NY(C, HV, PS)**

This workshop is intended to discuss the unique challenges that homeless families face as they try to better their lives and the lives of their children. Using the example of Metropolitan Ministries in Tampa, the presenters will focus on supporting homeless families through their struggles. They will share both the difficulties and successes of implementing PCHP with homeless families, and how they have made the Program work for their clients.

- 4. Planning Your Visit – Alma A. Ludewig, PCHP Assistant Coordinator, Kindering, Bellevue, WA (HV, PS)**

This workshop is designed to inspire you to discover the fun and rewards of planning your home visits. You will explore ways to outline in advance what you want to accomplish in each home visit and how you are going to achieve it. By the end of this workshop, you will have developed several tools that can be completed individually or with your team that should make your visits more enjoyable.

1:15 PM – 2:45 PM – Celebration of PCHP's 50th Anniversary – Sit-Down Luncheon
Recognition of Site Anniversaries, Door Prizes, Gifts, and Surprises! – **GRAND BALLROOM**