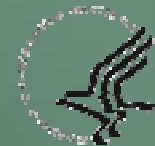


Fostering Parent Participation in a Longitudinal Study: The Los Angeles *Legacy for Children™* Experience

APHA 135th Annual Meeting
and Exposition

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Intervention Strategy in Legacy for Children™ at UCLA

- Foster a sense of community
- Mothers'-only groups
 - Child development information
 - Support development of parenting style
- Mothers'/children's groups
 - Knowledge about child development
 - Peer group interactions among the children
 - Modeling developmentally appropriate interactions
 - Opportunity to practice strategies



Retention Strategies for Study Participants

- Group intervention design
- Selection of staff
- Perks for study participants



Retention Strategies for the Mothers'/Children's Group Design

- Build parental social ties by creating a neighborhood:
 - Mothers
 - Get to know each other's children
 - Observe parenting behaviors
 - Children
 - Peer interactions
 - Friendships
 - Interactions with all Legacy mothers



Retention Strategies for the Mothers'-Only Group Design

Build parental social ties through shared reflections on parenting issues and parental identity:

- Shared rules of group conduct
- Consistent session format
- One-on-One time with Group Leader



Retention Strategy Through Socialization After Each Group Session

- Hot meals
 - Served after each group session
- Fun Club
 - Held after each mothers'-only session



Challenges to Hiring a Group Intervention Leader

- Skills and comfort level to work well with both adults and children
- Knowledgeable about group dynamics—adults and young children
- Knowledgeable about parenting issues, stresses, family belief systems
- Knowledgeable about child development issues



Retention Strategy for Staff Stability Leading to Participant Satisfaction

- Stable group leaders with a high level of professional skill and commitment
- Qualifications:
 - Master's degree
 - Experience in both parenting groups and child development
 - Personal qualifications
 - Non-judgmental, flexible, emotional stability, professional boundaries, sense of humor
 - Respect research data gathering efforts

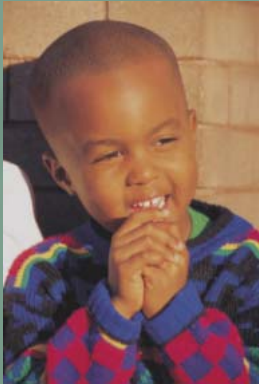


Staff Stability During the 3 Years of the Main Study

- 3 out of 5 group leaders remained during the entire main study
- 1 group leader remained with her intervention groups, except for the final 2 months.
 - Able to attend the mothers'/children's graduation celebrations
- 1 group leader was terminated after a few months



Perks as Part of the Retention Strategy



- Transportation
- Child Care funds
- Health ombudsman (Public Health Nurse)
- Birthday cards



Retention Strategies That Proved Difficult to Provide

- Hot meals
- Transportation
- FUN Club



Thank You

More information is available
at www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/child

