

# Buffalo Public School Howard Lewis Parent Center

*Families with children (6 months – 8<sup>th</sup> grade) attending Title 1 schools*



- *Center-based and home-based activities.*
- *Participants learn the developmental growth of their children and how to engage in age-appropriate activities.*
- *Evening tutoring for school-age children.*

## Results



*Parents report:*

- *Increased knowledge and understanding about age-appropriate activities,*
- *Increased frequency of engaging in these activities with their children, and*
- *Increased confidence in their interactions with school personnel and teachers.*

*Preschool children showed dramatic improvement in their language skills on the Peabody-Picture Vocabulary Test.*

## The Program

To reduce fragmented services, the Parent Center coordinates and provides at one neutral location an early childhood program; parent education programs addressing academic, health, and social concerns; and many additional activities to encourage parental involvement in the education of their children. This multifaceted service center helps parents address the social and educational needs of their children.

Based on the belief that parents are their children's first teachers and that working with their children teaches parental responsibility, children and parents participate together in center-based activities, such as storytelling, singing, and using computers (word processing for parents and age-appropriate software for children). There are also shared home-based activities, such as the Take Home Computer Program, and a lending library with videotaped books.

Parents learn to work with their children by learning what is developmentally appropriate for all children at various stages in their lives. Small group sessions, individual counseling workshops, field trips, and role modeling are used to facilitate learning and build on the positive strengths of the participants. A collaboration of various community agencies and organizations supports the program. Administrators, school staff, and Title 1 personnel conduct planning sessions during the year.

## Professional Development

The initial training takes place at the Buffalo Parent Center, with follow-up training held at the replication site. Each training requires 2 days. Included in the training is a review of:

- the screening instrumentation of parents and children,
- a computerized K-12 curriculum,
- transportation procedures,
- communication links among local schools and agencies,
- home visits and parent center schedules,
- lesson plans and enrichment activities (e.g., field trips),
- a lending library, and
- an adult education program.

## Costs & Funding Options

Training costs include a consultant honorarium of \$700/day plus expenses, \$450 for each teacher, and \$150 for the community liaison. The number of participants per training group is flexible. Supplies and materials cost \$400-600; printing varies up to \$400.

## Learning Standards

This program addresses early literacy, academic tutoring and parent involvement.

## Contact

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