

# Placement Prevention Program

*Families with children pre-K to 16-years-old who are at risk of out-of-home placement or are having difficulty in various areas that affect school performance*



*This program provides the following to families in the home and at school:*

- *Support Services/ Preventive Programming,*
- *Intensive Supervision,*
- *Crisis Intervention,*
- *Mentoring,*
- *School Support Project, and*
- *Workforce Investment Programming.*

## Results



*Reduced the number of out-of-home placements by 79% (at \$68,000 per year per student).*

*Teachers and parents reported statistically significant decreases in problem severity from pre- to post-test intervention and these decreases were educationally important.*

## The Program

The Placement Prevention Program is a comprehensive intervention program developed to empower families where children are at risk of out-of-home placement or are having difficulty in various areas that affect school performance. It is a voluntary program that works with each family's strengths and values in helping them achieve self-identified goals. Some of the issues include anger management, behavior modification, self-esteem, conflict resolution, ADHD, communication skills, learning disabilities, mental health issues, sibling rivalry, and school related issues.

The program uses a team approach and is built on strong participant involvement. To receive services, children are referred by a Juvenile Needs Task Force (Probation, DSS, Mental Health, School) and action is taken within a day: a home visit is made, the family decides if they will participate, and an Individual Family Service Plan is developed. A team member is assigned to each student and there is daily contact in school and at home if necessary. Case conferencing is done on a weekly basis and involves everyone involved with the family. The team approach is very effective in that it allows team members to provide immediate attention to the students and school staff should a problem arise during the school day. Each team member is assigned his/her own caseload, but everyone on the team is familiar with each others' families.

Family activities are held monthly, along with after-school boys and girls groups. Home visits are done on a biweekly basis or as often as necessary. These visits provide parents with direct intervention, modeling, and/or educational opportunities in parenting skills and discipline by home visitors or mentors.

The Placement Prevention Program ensures that students receive assistance in meeting their educational goals while also helping families meet their basic needs. Because the program is family-driven and built on the strengths of family members, program participants remain actively involved in and committed to reaching their goals.

## Professional Development

A two-day on-site training at the developer's site in Olean is available. Trainees experience firsthand how the program works and are involved in some of the activities.

## Costs & Funding Options

A minimal fee will be charged for those visiting the Olean site. In Olean, program funding comes from Cattaraugus County DSS, Community Schools, and Special Education Funding. These monies are also available to replicators through their own county sources, as well as Title I, Safety Grants, and Extended School Day/Violence Prevention monies.

## Learning Standards

**Health, Physical Education and Home Economics:** 2) acquire the knowledge and ability necessary to create and maintain a safe and healthy environment; 3) understand and be able to manage their personal and community resources.

## Contact

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