

# Strengthening Families

Strengthening Families is focused on ensuring the wellness of children by building the resiliency and capacity of parents to meet the needs of their family. This initiative is based upon the Strengthening Families framework developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy ([www.strengtheningfamilies.net](http://www.strengtheningfamilies.net)). It focuses on building Five Protective Factors: parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete support in times of need, social and emotional competence of children. It began in 2008 as a pilot project delivered in the communities of Cincinnati's 45211 ZIP code area and is expanding this year to include the communities located within the 45214, 45225 and 45238 ZIP code areas. Additional information: [www.connectcommunitysupport.org](http://www.connectcommunitysupport.org)

## Strengthening Families Program

GOALS	STRATEGIES	OUTCOMES
To implement the Strengthening Families framework within early childhood programs.	Early child care and education centers, preschool programs and family child care provider homes receive coaching, technical assistance and specialized training.	Early childhood providers and educators report increased competence in the use of parent engagement skills and increase their daily use of these skills by 3.4%.
To provide social networks, resources, and education to parents.	Parent Cafés begin and parents receive access to family resources, social networks and parenting knowledge.	Parent Cafés glean tremendous results as 88% of parents report increased awareness of effective parenting skills or connection to a resource or support network. 84.5% report plans to change how they discipline or listen to their children.
To build the capacity of the community to meet the needs of families.	Community awareness campaign launches. Residents, civic and religious groups and parents are educated on the Strengthening Families five protective factors.	91% of residents and parents report an awareness of Strengthening Families 67% are more aware of parenting resources 46% have made positive behavior changes to build their protective factors.

## Child Abuse and Neglect Substantiations in 45211 Decreased by 35%

Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services substantiated 34 fewer cases of child abuse and neglect from the 45211 zip code in 2009 than in 2008.

### Thanks to the Generosity of our Funders:

The **Promoting Resilient Children Program** is funded by United Way of Greater Cincinnati.

The Strengthening Families Initiative is made possible by the Ohio Children's Trust Fund and Hamilton County Family and Children First Council.



### How to get Involved

The **Consortium for Resilient Young Children** would like to invite you to attend our Roundtable Discussions held annually. Another opportunity is to utilize our website for updates on **CRYC** programs and valuable information and presentations related to our mission and vision. Ultimately, we invite you to promote the social and emotional needs of young children and the impact this has on their and our future.

Please contact us if you would like more information on how to join a **CRYC** committee or on becoming a member: [www.resilientchildren.org](http://www.resilientchildren.org)

the **Consortium**  
for resilient young children



2010 ANNUAL REPORT

## Who We Are

The **Consortium for Resilient Young Children** brings together the best of early childhood and mental health practices. The **Consortium** promotes best practices related to quality child care and access to children's mental health services.

The **Consortium's** mission is to promote the social and emotional development and well being of young children, strengthens the capacity of all adults who care for them, and advocate for coordinated, aligned systems.

The vision is that all children are socially and emotionally competent and resilient. Caring adults support, build, and advocate for young children's social and emotional well being. Systems and communities serving young children and families are of high quality, aligned and coordinated.

## What We Do

Members of **CRYC** focus their attention on promoting higher quality child care, increasing parent awareness about their role in their child's life, and understanding the social and emotional needs of young children. Currently, the **Consortium** has two grant-funded projects that carry out the mission: The **Promoting Resilient Children program** and the **Strengthening Families program**.

In addition to grant-funded projects, the **CRYC** uses its resources to focus community attention on the importance of social emotional development in young children through advocacy, consultation, and information sharing.

## Our Achievements

- » United Way of Greater Cincinnati nominated CRYC for its strong collaborative work to the United Way of America as a Promising Practice
- » Expanded services from Northern Kentucky and Hamilton County to Clermont County
- » PRC model was one of two early childhood mental health models highlighted at the Child Welfare League of America National Conference in 2009.
- » Presentations about our work at the 2008 National Association for the Education of Young Children conference.
- » Offered two roundtable presentations related to Assessments and Young Children
- » Submitted SAMSHA grant for Project Launch in order to sustain and expand the work
- » Lead agent in providing service for the Federal ELOA grant (2005)
- » Strengthening Families staff presented at the State of Ohio Child Abuse Prevention Summit and are scheduled to present this fall at the 4C for Children's Leadership Conference, the OC-CRRA Institute and the Early Childhood Mental Health Conference.



“It's exciting to see the teachers actually learn how to plan for social emotional development. They really understand now, that when children are having trouble with their behavior, there is something more going on inside.”

~ Kelly Bigham, Child Care Center Director

## Promoting Resilient Children

The goals of **Promoting Resilient Children** are to increase the professional capacity of child care staff, thus enhancing children's social and emotional development while providing mental health interventions for children birth to age five. This program is a collaboration of mental health and early childhood specialists who provide services to early childhood centers through collaboration, coaching, and training to promote social and emotional wellbeing of children before they enter kindergarten. Services are provided to 29 centers in Hamilton County and their staff and 1250 children ages 3 months to five years. The United Way of Greater Cincinnati initially provided funding in 2006. United Way has extended its support of the **PRC** project through 2012 and included additional support to expand services to Clermont County.

### Promoting Resilient Children Program

GOALS	STRATEGIES	OUTCOMES
To increase the professional capacity of child care staff	Child care teachers and directors receive frequent and intensive coaching and training in sound early childhood practices with an emphasis on social and emotional development.	Child care teachers and directors receive frequent and intensive coaching and training in sound early childhood practices with an emphasis on social and emotional development. 80% of teachers report that consultation increased their understanding of social/emotional development of children.  Teachers and Directors from 29 child care centers received 940 consultations in the past year.  71 teachers, directors, and coaches received training on the DECA assessment.
To increase the social and emotional skills of children ages 0-5 years.	Through assessment, intervention, coaching, mental health consultation, Kindergarten transition services	74 % of children ages 0-3 years demonstrated progress in social-emotional development  74 % of children ages 3-5 years demonstrated progress in social-emotional development
To increase the community's and parents' awareness of social and emotional development	Educational materials available to the parents  Community education about social and emotional development	483 parents receive a booklet describing how to support their child's social/emotional development  Parent Cards are available at Joseph Beth bookstore and The Children's Home's website.  Early Childhood Consultation Manual available fall of 2010

### 92% of children in PRC programs demonstrated age appropriate social & emotional skills.

Of the children who had been enrolled in **PRC** programs for at least 12 months, 92% demonstrated age-appropriate skills on the Total Protective Factor scale (DECA).

#### MEMBER AGENCIES:

- » 4 C... For Children
- » Centerpoint Health
- » Central Clinic
- » Children's Inc.
- » The Children's Home of Cincinnati
- » Cincinnati Early Learning Center
- » Cincinnati Public Schools
- » Northkey Community Care
- » Dr. Dorothy June Sciarra, Professor Emerita