











## The Five-Year Plan to Create a Culture of Positive Parenting through Education

In July 2006, five agency leaders from New York State participated in the PREVENT Child Maltreatment Institute at the University of North Carolina, to develop a plan to protect the health and safety of our state's children. The team focused their plan on parenting education for the earliest years, because:

"Parents more likely to abuse their children tend ... to be uninformed and have unrealistic expectations about child development." (*Child Abuse and Neglect Facts*. World Health Organization, 2002.) "Young children (age 0-4) are most at risk of physical abuse." (*Child Maltreatment Prevention Priorities at CDC*. Whitaker et al., *Child Maltreatment*, Aug 2005.) Among the factors that protect against child maltreatment are nurturing parenting skills and communities that support parents. (National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Child Maltreatment: Fact Sheet <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/cmfacts.htm>)

The Five Year Goal for the project is drawn from the New York State *Early Childhood Comprehensive Services Plan*: To increase the availability and scope of evidence-based parenting education activities, in order to increase opportunities for all families of children from before birth to age five to gain the knowledge, skills, confidence, and social supports needed to nurture the health, safety and positive development of their children.

The purpose of the March 8, 2007 meeting, is to present a forum on parenting education and establish a statewide task force for the continuation of the five-year plan.

-  Convene a **statewide public-private task force on parenting education** for parents of children prenatal to five years old, to assist in achieving the following goals:
-  Develop a **resource book** and **web-based database of information for parents** and a **parent newsletter** to be sent periodically to all parents of young children.
-  Identify **prenatal and 0-5 parenting education programs** in the state, publicize and make that information available to parents through the **statewide Parent Helpline**.
-  Assess the **availability of parenting education services**, including for special populations, and develop a **searchable web-based parenting services database**.
-  Build and disseminate a body of **best-practices and evidence-based research for parenting educators**, and encourage providers to use proven, research-based programs.
-  Compile and disseminate **useable program evaluation information**. Provide **technical assistance** white papers on parenting program evaluation for providers.
-  Develop strategies to **encourage funders and policy-makers to support 0-5 parenting education**, increasing public and private resources for evidence-based parenting education.
-  Identify, develop and disseminate **culturally appropriate, family-friendly mass media vehicles** that convey (1) positive parenting messages, and (2) the value of parent education.

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