

Early Advantage



Engaging Parents in Early Identification: *What we've learned from Early Advantage at WIC*

September 24, 2006

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The goal of Early Advantage is to improve school readiness of children in high need areas so they are better prepared to succeed in school



This includes finding children with special needs and linking them to services as early as possible

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Through interview and observation we have learned that WIC families

- Have diverse language and cultural backgrounds
- Have high educational goals for their children
- Want to know how to help their children succeed
- May lack knowledge about child development, school expectations, and community resources
- Have inconsistent access to pediatric services



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Research tells us that ...*

- The earlier needs are identified, the better the outcome will be
- The more appropriate and consistent services are, the better the outcome will be

To provide appropriate services as early as possible...

We need to identify as early as possible!

**Coleman, Buysse, & Neitzel, Recognition & Response, FPG Child Development Institute, 2006*

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Early Advantage at WIC address these issues by...



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- Providing early learning experiences in “trusted” locations where families with young children are likely to frequent



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- Providing learning experiences that develop skills and foster parent-child interactions



so parents are better able to identify their child's needs and their own parenting needs

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- Observing children and parents to identify needs,



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- Modeling for and coaching parents on ways to help their child and sharing expectations



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- Listening to parent concerns and providing supportive, culturally sensitive guidance, information, high quality screening, and follow-up resources



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Identifying needs and supporting children and parents as early as possible!

