



PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

PHFA's Housing Services Department **Best Practices**

Oak Hollow South/ Baby And Me: Learning Together

Categories: Education and Employment

Outcomes:

Parenting skills are improved providing for a healthier family environment. Preschoolers are exposed to early childhood developmental activities creating greater opportunities for developmental success and growth, in the community room where they live.

Program Components:

- **Resident population.** The Service Coordinator analyzed the demographics of the site's population. The site had a significant number of low income families with young mothers with children in the age range of birth through five years.
- **Identifying collaborative resource.** The Service Coordinator had developed a relationship with the local elementary school. She kept informed on what was happening at the local school and was known by many of the school staff. This relationship involved supporting school activities by encouraging parents to attend school functions such as back to school nights.
- **Program Development.** The Service Coordinator reached out to the retired elementary school principal and they worked together gathering information on early childhood developmental programs. They created a program called "Baby And Me: Learning Together", that meets once a week for one and a half hours, during the school year in the development's community room. Parent and child must attend together. The children learn songs, colors, shapes, numbers, etc. After each session, the participants are allowed to take home an educational toy or book to enable them to practice specific skills.
- **Program Staffing.** The program is run by the retired elementary school principal who helped to develop it.
- **Materials.** In order to encourage developmental growth a variety of educational materials were used including books, clay, bubbles, crayons, magazines, VCR tapes, etc.

Units: Oak Hollow South consists of 67 two, three and four bedroom Section 8 units for general occupancy

Management Agent:
Housing Development Corporation of Lancaster (HDC)

Service Coordinator:
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Background:

Oak Hollow South is a family development. The Section 8 financed development is located in Lancaster County.

Investment in Services:

The "Baby And Me: Learning Together" does not result in any direct costs to Oak Hollow South. The learning supplies including books, clay, bubbles, educational toys, etc are donated to the site by local retailers.

RESULTS

Residents' basic life skills are improved providing access and support towards self-sufficiency

Resident participation increases through educational programming

Residents' families become more supportive environments for early childhood learning and development

For more information,
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