

Program Overview

A voluntary, home visitation program offering intensive support to parents during pregnancy or at the time of a child's birth, and continuing for up to five years. Program staff work one-on-one with high risk families to improve coping skills and family functioning; promote positive parenting skills and parent/child interactions; and promote optimal child development. All services are provided in an effort to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Who We Serve

At-risk families with children ages birth to five years who reside in Brown or Door County.

2006: 10,795 hours of service to 308 families

A Story of Success

Two years ago, Janey was referred to Healthy Families by her physician. At the time, she was pregnant and not gaining weight, and frequently missing appointments with both her doctor and her counselor. Janey was depressed and anxiety ridden. Her doctor was ready to make a referral to Child Protective Services due to his concern for the health of her unborn child.

After connecting with Healthy Families, Janey's Family Support Worker spent several months building a relationship of trust. Time was spent taking her to these critical appointments, and meeting with her doctor and counselors to coordinate services. Some days, just getting Janey to leave her house was a challenge. Many of those involved, especially staff at her clinic, were unsure if Janey would be capable of taking care of her baby.

After the baby's birth, Janey's Family Support Worker met with them more often than the typical weekly schedule. She offered her information and encouragement when it was needed most. Janey took her advice to heart and did her best to follow all the recommendations. She learned to follow the example set by her Family Support Worker in interaction and play with her baby, and, over time, a positive mother/child bond has developed.

The baby is now 18 months old and is almost always running! She loves turning the pages while listening to books read by her mother or Family Support Worker. Although Janey is still anxious about leaving her house, she has learned she must do so in the best interest of her child. She is keeping up with her baby's well visits and continues to see a counselor to overcome her feelings of anxiety. Janey and her baby have also attended many of the group activities provided by Healthy Families, designed to ease the social isolation many of our families experience. Her doctor recently saw Janey and her baby and expressed amazement at how far they had come.

Healthy Families is located at 1822 Riverside Drive in Green Bay; Early Head Start offices are housed at 300 Crooks Street in Green Bay.

The above story is an example of the type of children, individuals and families we serve. Names, ages, and other personal information have been changed to protect the client's confidentiality.

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