

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

Generally located in home-like settings, family resource centers serve as informal meeting places for regularly scheduled classes, groups, and social activities ... such as parenting classes, child care, short-term counseling, recreational activities, prenatal education, and adult education classes. Children's Defense Fund, 1992



Different Kinds of Family Centers

LOCATION

School-based

*Community-based
(but school-linked)*

FOCUS

**Early childhood/
parenting**

Teens/youth

Integrated services

Community recreation

Family Center Outcomes (examples)

- ◆ *relationships: family, friends*
- ◆ *parenting skills*
- ◆ *available school, neighborhood and community activities*
- ◆ *quality child care*
- ◆ *social, emotional, informational resources*
- ◆ *basic resources: food, shelter, transportation, health & dental care*
- ◆ *affordable housing*
- ◆ *adult literacy and basic skills*

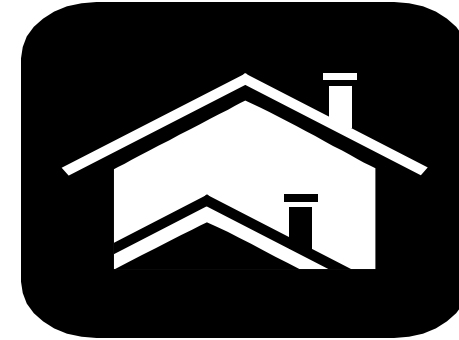
Family Center Outcomes: Systems Improvement

- ◆ *Access to programs, services, activities*
- ◆ *Availability of programs, services, activities*
- ◆ *Volunteerism*
- ◆ *Public awareness*
- ◆ *Community involvement*
- ◆ *Family choice, satisfaction with center programs*
- ◆ *No stigma*

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS

GOVERNANCE

- ◆ *Advisory board*
- ◆ *Community representation*
- ◆ *Leadership*
- ◆ *Capable staff*
- ◆ *Connection with local commission on children & families*

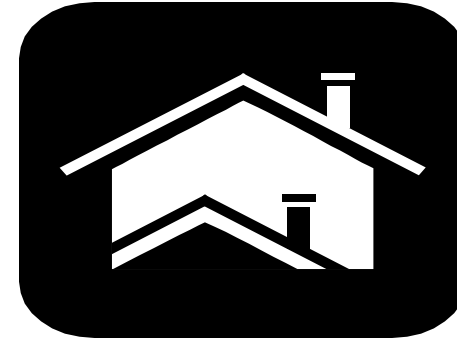


- ◆ *Market-driven services, programs, and activities*
- ◆ *Adequate resources*
- ◆ *Access to training, technical assistance*

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS

COLLABORATION

- ◆ *Shared mission and vision*
- ◆ *Action plan*
- ◆ *Negotiated partner agreements*
- ◆ *Articulated self-interests*
- ◆ *Delegated authority for decisions*
- ◆ *Communication and conflict plans*



ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS

FAMILY SUPPORT

- ◆ *Home-like environment*
- ◆ *Trusting relationships*
- ◆ *Cultural sensitivity*



- ◆ *Participants and contributors (not “clients”)*

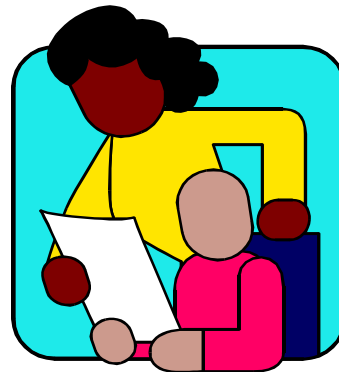
Examples of Family Center activities in Oregon



- ◆ Health checkups
- ◆ Dental care
- ◆ Gleaners
- ◆ Head Start
- ◆ Home school moms
- ◆ Information and referral
- ◆ Baby lap sits
- ◆ Healthy Start

Examples of Family Center activities in Oregon

- ◆ Computers
- ◆ Drop-in child care
- ◆ Play groups
- ◆ Hispanic family groups
- ◆ Summer recreation programs
- ◆ Baby brag days



Examples of Family Center activities in Oregon

- ◆ Arts and crafts
- ◆ Soup kitchen
- ◆ Emergency food and clothing
- ◆ Dropping by for coffee
- ◆ Project Safe Place
- ◆ State and county agencies (AFS, SCF, health, mental health, juvenile)

