

Family Matters

The Newsletter for FDC Graduates!

Networking News:

- Phyllis Elliott from Jefferson County submitted the winning name of “**Family Matters**” for your family advocate newsletter. Thanks Phyllis!
- Bob Wincher is working to bring FDC graduates more rewards for hard work. You may receive 6 hours of college credit from KCTCS which will count for Human Services 101 (Human Services Survey) and Social Work 275 (The Family). These KCTCS courses are fully transferable to four-year institutions and there will be no fee for FDC graduates to obtain these hours once they enroll at any KCTCS. Furthermore, KCTCS will allow Head Start Family Service Workers who pursue an AA in Human Services to complete their 4 hour practicum requirement through service in the Head Start centers where they work. Please note that this arrangement is not official as of today. Check back with Bob after August.

Parent Involvement: Wonder if your fatherhood initiative is really working? What are the things that get and keep fathers involved? The National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse has identified ten practices:

1. Teaching methods and materials are culturally appropriate for fathers being served.
2. Staff members who believe in the program and have relevant training and coaching.
3. A high staff-participant ratio.
4. One-on-one relationships between staff and participants.
5. Clear, specific program goals.
6. Theory-based approaches that have influenced parenting behaviors in other contexts.
7. Varied teaching methods that focus on fathers as individuals.
8. Sufficient time to complete important core program activities.
9. Incentives to engage fathers and families.
10. Curricula replicated with fidelity.

Taken from: “What Works” in Fatherhood Programs? Ten Lessons from Evidence-Based Practice. By Jacinta Bronte-Tinkew . For more information go to:

www.fatherhood.gov/grantees/responsible_parenting.cfm

Incarcerated Fathers: *Fit 2-B FATHERS* is a social and parenting skills program for men in the corrections system that has been found to improve participant’s attitudes about themselves, their role as fathers, and their understanding of positive parenting practices. Research shows that after the program participants felt better about themselves, felt in control of their lives, better understood effective discipline practices, and were more likely to recognize play as an important way of learning for children and the importance of giving children choices. For more information contact your local Cooperative Extension Office.

Economic Stability: [Money Smart](http://www.money-smart.org) is a free training program from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) that contains financial education to help adults manage money and understand financial information related to banking, saving for retirement, loans etc. The Money Smart curriculum helps individuals build financial knowledge, develop financial confidence, and use banking services effectively. It can be downloaded for free or it can be ordered at

www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/index.html

Resources to Share with Families: The *Zero to Three* web site has a section dedicated to educating parents. It includes great information that can be downloaded and copied as handouts for parents. For a list of topics visit: www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=par_parents