



Family and Consumer Sciences Extension

— Parenting Education 2005

Learning for Life

The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension

The Problem

- According to *Kids Count* 2005, the child abuse and neglect rate has been rising dramatically from 11.3 per 1,000 in 1997 to 21.2 per 1,000 in 2003.
- There were 101,563 child reports in Georgia in 2004. Of those, 30,951 were substantiated as victims of child abuse. About 85% of those children were victims of severe neglect and 11% were physically abused.⁽¹⁾
- Every 30 minutes in Georgia, a child is the victim of confirmed abuse or neglect costing every Georgia family an average of \$1,500.⁽²⁾
- According to Georgia DHR, almost 14,000 Georgia youngsters are in state custody for foster care, at an average annual cost of \$22,000 per child.
- The total number of reported juvenile crimes in Georgia increased from 11,497 in 2000 to 13,688 in 2004.⁽³⁾
- Child abuse and neglect are strongly related to family poverty, especially in combination with depression, social isolation, and substance abuse.⁽⁴⁾
- According to *Kids Count* 2005, poor parenting skills can place children at risk for abuse and neglect.
- Teen parents are twice as likely as older parents to abuse their children.

Research-based Solutions

- Practicing positive parenting habits can stop cycles of abuse.
- Positive parenting skills can be learned and used by nearly all parents.
- Teen parents are particularly receptive to research-based education.

Extension's Role

- Conduct parenting education for all interested parents.
- Present parenting education classes for parents identified as needing special assistance.
- Collaborate with other family-serving organizations to provide seamless support.

Extension's Contribution to Solving the Problem

- Provided more than 18,600 hours of parenting and family education to 10,048 Georgians. Of the Georgians who participated in parenting education, 51% were considered as low income or at risk.
- Parenting education was provided to many Georgians through media. This includes 47 newsletters targeted to 33,900 readers; 44 newspaper columns circulated to 0.8 million potential readers; 4 radio broadcasts to over 80,000 listeners; and 10 television shows targeted to 2.5 million viewers.

Impact on Georgians

- Of the Georgians who participated in parenting education programs, 90% said that those educational programs were helpful to develop parenting knowledge and skills.
- The majority of the parents who participated in parenting education programs planned to adopt parenting practices which will help them guide their children with clear limits, less anger and less stress. For example, 96% planned to engage their children in regular discussions; 80% planned to forgive their children's mistakes and turn them into learning opportunities; 94% planned to use reasoning and explanation instead of threats and coercion to correct misbehavior; and 93% planned to seek their children's input in family decisions.
- Ninety-six percent of the parents who participated in stress management workshops said that those workshops were helpful to improve their stress management knowledge and practices. Most of the

participants planned to apply stress management practices. For example, 87% planned to deal with stressful problems immediately; 95% planned to identify sources of stress and try to change them; 89% planned to seek out friends for conversation and support.

Contact

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Sources

- (1) Georgia First Lady's Our Children Campaign: Statistics about Georgia's Children. Available at http://www.gov.state.ga.us/summit_fl/statistics.shtml Accessed 02.16.06.
- (2) 2004 Annual report. Atlanta: Prevent Child Abuse Georgia. Available at <http://www.preventchildabusega.org>
- (3) Boatright, S. R. & Bachtel, D. C. (2004). *Georgia County Guide 23rd Edition*. University of Georgia. Athens, GA.
- (4) English, D.J. (1998). The extent and consequences of child maltreatment. *The Future of Children: Protecting Children from Abuse and Neglect*, v 8, 1 (Spring). Los Altos, CA: David and Lucille Packard Foundation.

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