

Template No. 3

Early Childhood Counts

A Home Visiting Program

QUESTIONS	DISCUSSION
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FAMILIES

What families will be visited?	Select families who are most in need where the children are at greatest risk (i.e., families who are not likely to come to parent groups), and who are open to being visited.
What do we want to accomplish through the home visit?	Have specific goals that can be accomplished in a relatively short period of time: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– support breastfeeding– introduce complementary foods– encourage parent/child interaction– help parents/caregivers become better observers of the child's development.

HOME VISITORS

Who will serve as the home visitors?	Select people from the community who are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– interested in working with families– willing to be trained– able to make a commitment in terms of time so that there is a consistency in who works with the family.
How many families will each home visitor work with?	They should not visit more than 10-12 families on a regular basis.
What knowledge and skills do they need?	Home visitors need to have a clear understanding of the messages to be conveyed. They should be supportive, not critical of parents.
What kind of training do they need?	Training should include both content and process (i.e., how to deliver the messages).
Before the home visitor begins?	Initial training should be one week (40 hours) at a minimum; two weeks (80 hours) is better. The content and process of training are more important than the precise number of hours offered.

HOME VISITORS (continued)

Over time as the service is delivered?	In-service training should take place one day every three months, at a minimum, with bi-weekly group meetings for sharing and discussion.
Who will provide supervision?	An experienced home visitor can provide supervision, or the individual responsible for the program can provide it.
How often will supervision occur?	During the initial weeks of the program supervision should happen after each visit to review the session. As the home visitor becomes more experienced, supervision can happen less frequently.

VISITS

How often will home visits take place?	The best frequency is one visit per week. It should not be less than one visit per month.
How long will each visit be?	Generally between one and two hours—long enough to make it worthwhile, but not so long that the mother is anxious for the visitor to leave.
For how many months will the home visits take place?	Six months at a minimum, and generally not more than two years. This is dependent on the goals of the visits.

EVALUATION

How will we know if the home visits are effective?	Observation of mother/child interaction. Ratings by the supervisor. Home Visitor assessment. Child assessment (nutritional status, psycho-social indicators).
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