

What does a Family Support Worker do?

- Provides parenting education to enhance the parent-child relationship and the home environment.
- Initiates and maintains regular and long term contact with families.
- Provides family centered and strength based support to families.
- Helps families to identify strengths and needs.
- Makes referrals to appropriate agencies.
- Establishes trusting relationships with families.
- Assists in building the family support system.
- Assists in building the problem solving ability of families.

Healthy Families- *Oneida County*

*A partnership of the
Oneida County Health
Department and the
Family Nurturing Center
of Central New York, Inc.*

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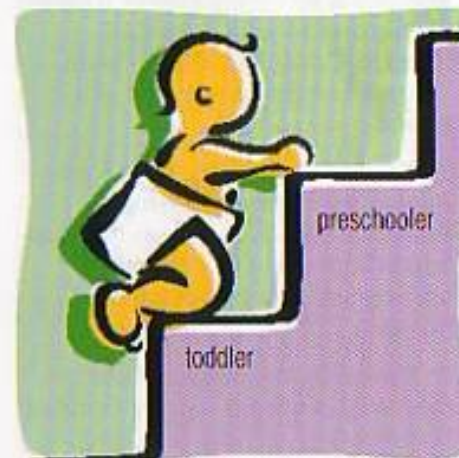
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Healthy Families- *Oneida County*

INFORMATION FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

*"Good family life is never an accident but always
an achievement by those who share it."*

--James H. S. Bossard



infant

A voluntary home visiting
program offering free services to
Utica families who are expecting a
child or have an infant less
than 90 days of age.



The Referral Process:

1. The source fills out a referral and attaches a screening form or a parent survey and sends it to Healthy Families-Oneida County. Referral sources can also phone to make a referral.

2. If the screen is positive, a Family Assessment Worker/Referral Specialist calls the family to make an appointment for a more detailed assessment interview in the family's home.

3. Based on the assessment score, the family is offered Healthy Families home visiting services or referred to other home visiting programs and community services.

4. A Family Support Worker contacts the family and begins home visits.

5. If the family agrees to participate in the program, they will receive home visiting services until the target child enters preschool, Head Start or Kindergarten.

Healthy Families- Oneida County Program Goals

- To promote positive parent-child interaction.
- To promote optimal prenatal care and childhood growth and development
- To systematically assess for family strengths and needs and refer to appropriate agencies as needed.
- To enhance family functioning by building trusting relationships, teaching problem solving skills, and improving the family's support system.

The mission of Healthy Families-Oneida County is to partner with parents to prepare for challenges of parenting, enhance skills in promoting healthy development for their children, and strengthen family relationships.

This will be accomplished through a structured home visitation program that will assist families using education, mentoring, advocacy, linkage to community services, and identification of existing family strengths.

Based on a 1998 Healthy Families NY participant survey:

- 85% of parents reported that their patience with their child had improved and they were better able to deal with their child's difficult behavior because of the program.
- 84% of the parents reported that the program had improved their ability to access needed services.
- 87% of parents reported that they were able to improve their problem solving skills because of the program.

Healthy Families NY Health Outcomes:

- At 12 months of age, 96% of Healthy Families NY children had up to date immunizations, compared to 80% of children not participating in Healthy Families NY.
- At 15 months of age, Healthy Families NY children had attended 75% of the recommended number of well baby visits, compared to 46% of the recommended number of visits attended by children not participating in Healthy Families NY.