

HERE IS WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY ABOUT US:

"My worker was very understanding and helpful. She treated me like a human being, not a client."

"The staff always listened and showed interest in helping; they taught us in a manner we were able to understand and motivated us to be better parents."

"I liked my worker's teaching style because she took the time to repeat information over and over until I was able to understand it."



Westchester Institute
for Human Development

THE CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM
Westchester Institute for Human Development
Cedarwood Hall Room C131
Valhalla, NY 10595-1689
(914) 493-1022
wihd.org

PROJECT IMPACT

Improving
Parenting
Achievements
Together



Westchester Institute
for Human Development

PROJECT IMPACT

Project IMPACT is an intensive parent training program designed for parents with intellectual disabilities and/or significant learning disabilities who have been reported for child maltreatment.

WHAT
IS
PROJECT
IMPACT?

WHY ARE
THESE PARENTING
SERVICES
OFFERED?

WHAT
ARE THE
PROGRAM
GOALS?

WHAT
SERVICES
WILL BE
PROVIDED?

HOW
DOES THE
PROGRAM
WORK?

WHO
IS
ELIGIBLE?

HOW DO
FAMILIES
PARTICIPATE?

WHY ARE THESE PARENTING SERVICES BEING OFFERED?

Research has shown that parents with intellectual disabilities are at greater risk for having their children placed in foster care than parents who do not have intellectual disabilities. There are programs available that provide basic parenting education and work with parents who have abused or neglected their children. However, a typical curriculum cannot effectively address the specific needs of a parent with intellectual disabilities, as the curriculum is often too complex and the length of the program too brief.

WHAT ARE THE PROGRAM GOALS?

To assist adults with intellectual disabilities and/or significant learning disabilities parent their children. To prevent the placement or replacement of children from these families into foster care.

WHAT SERVICES WILL PROJECT IMPACT PROVIDE?

We have developed an intensive, in-home 4-6 month parenting curriculum that has been tailored to meet the specific needs of parents with intellectual disabilities. Intervention consists of skills training using a combination of visual aids and hands-on practice. Topics covered include areas such as:

basic child care	parent/child interaction
child management skills	parent advocacy
home management skills	problem-solving skills

The program is individualized based on the ages of the children.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

One clinical staff member will be assigned to each family participating in the program. 1½-2 hours of in-home instruction will be provided three days a week and skills will be regularly assessed.

Throughout the program, parents will receive small incentives for their participation, as well as child care supplies.

The family's DSS caseworker is required to attend the 1st session and be an ongoing resource for the clinician.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Families must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be involved with DSS.
2. Parent must be classified with:
 - (a) an IQ of 80 or less and/or
 - (b) a history of significant Learning Disabilities
3. Children must currently be in care of parents.
4. Parents must be available during regular working hours.

HOW DO FAMILIES PARTICIPATE IN PROJECT IMPACT?

Referrals can be made by DSS through completion of a PROJECT IMPACT referral form. A cognitive screener can be completed by WIHD if a parent's IQ is not available. Any questions about the program should be directed to Dr. Trupti Rao at (914) 493-8141.