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Reaching Vulnerable Families through Collaborative Partnerships: The Evaluation

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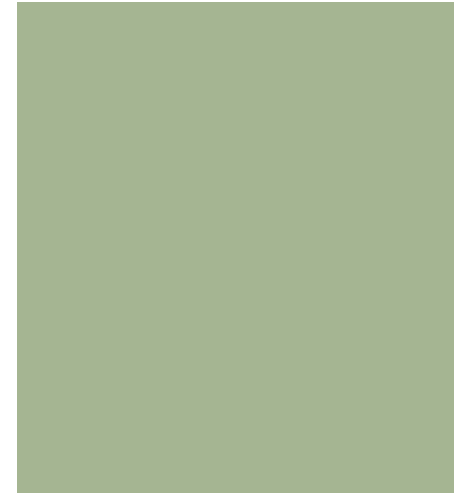


Evaluation Questions

1. Do parents think the program provided them with skills to promote early literacy and child development?
2. Do parents think the program increased their knowledge of their infants' signals of readiness for interaction?
3. Do parents intend to implement what they learned from the Goslings program?
4. Do parents implement the Goslings program 1 to 2 weeks later?



Evaluation Method





Participants

Parents and caregivers

Year 1 ($N = 66$)

- 63% mothers
- 52% Black/African American; 42% White

Year 2 ($N = 38$)

- 65% mothers
- 42% White; 40% Black/African American

Interview ($N = 10$)

- 90% mothers
- 50% White; 30% Black/African American

Infants

Year 1

- 61% male
- 43% 1-4 weeks in NICU
- Birth weights ranging from $\leq 1,000$ grams to $\geq 2,500$ grams

Year 2

- 50% male
- 46% 1-4 weeks in NICU
- Range of birth weights

Interview

- 50% male
- 70% 1-4 weeks in NICU
- Range of birth weights

Measures

- Pre-session/post-session
 - Frequency - talk/read/sing/recite nursery rhymes
 - Confidence interpreting signals
- Interview
 - 1-2 weeks after attending session
 - Current frequency of talking/ reading/singing/reciting nursery rhymes
 - Semi-structured interview: examples of program activities and materials used, knowledge of infant signals, thoughts about program





Results





Year 1 Survey Results

- Very successful!
- Parents were satisfied with skills taught and highly recommended program to others.
- Parents reported increased intention to engage in reading, talking, singing, and reciting nursery rhymes.
- Parents believed they learned skills necessary to:
 - Foster infants' language development
 - Better interpret infants' signals about readiness for stimulation



Year 2 Survey Results

- Successfully replicated Year 1 findings!
- All respondents indicated they were satisfied with the program and would recommend to other parents.
- Parents reported increase intention to engage in target behaviors.
- Parents reported they were better able and more confident in their ability to read their infant's signals.



Year 2 Interview Results

Are parents implementing the program 1 to 2 weeks later?

- Yes!
- Importantly, parents reported **adapting** what they learned to fit the needs of their infant.





Illustrative positive response

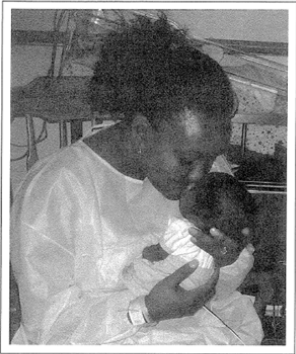
"I just love the program...I *wouldn't be doing, you know, most of the stuff I do* with her and to deal with the days that, you know, being in the NICU with the baby that you can, *there's still things that you can do*, and have fun and interact with your child even though they going through different things and *it's okay to be you know yourself with, around the baby*...Even with singing, you know, reading a book, and understanding your baby like I just loved the whole thing."

Provided parents with new knowledge

- Before program:
 - "...‘What do babies need *you to read to them for* and stuff like that?’...
- After program:
 - "This program say *it's okay*. You can read to the baby, you can interact with the baby, other than feed them, sleep them, and change them. *You can do different things.*"



*Understanding
My Signals*



Help for Parents of Premature Infants

Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Ph.D., M.P.H.

“Like...when they talk about the signs cause I didn’t know about the signs until I attended the Goslings, and when she was talking about paying attention to them, I was like, *‘Oh my God, now I see why she do the things she do!’* And so now it’s like learning from that, I learned how to cope with her in different ways.”

Challenges to Implementation

- Soliciting engagement in program.
- Infant-specific barriers faced by parents.
 - Medical or developmental status of infant
 - infants sleep a lot,
 - NICU-specific barriers



Conclusions



Overall, a
success!

- During implementation
 - Parents responded favorably to program.
- Post implementation
 - Using strategies/materials provided.
 - Adapting use of materials/strategies to the specific needs of their child.

Limitations/ difficulties

- Data limited to immediately post-intervention and 1-2 weeks post-intervention.
 - Therefore, limited conclusions can be made about future behaviors.
- Engaging families proved a challenge.