

Partnering with Parents: Program Evaluation Findings



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Partnering with Parents

- An educational outreach academy focused on parenting education core competencies
- Based on family centered practices and parenting education theory and research
- Incorporates NEPEM and NEPEF
- 11 interactive training modules

[Partnering with Parents Web Site](#)

Purpose of the Study

1. Assess if Partnering with Parents strengthened the core competencies of learners
2. Determine if there is a significant difference in learner outcomes based on participation format (online vs. traditional)
3. Investigate the components of the program that learners recognized as helpful in the learning process and those that learners identified as challenging





Research Questions



1. How, if at all, did *Partnering with Parents* strengthen the core competencies of learners?
2. Is there a difference in learner outcomes based on participation format? (online vs. traditional)
3. What are program components that learners found helpful in the learning process?
4. What are program components that learners found challenging in the learning process?

Study Methodology

Quantitative analysis

- Frequency analysis
- Demographics
- Paired t-test analysis
- Online vs. Traditional format

Qualitative analysis

- Emergence of Themes
- Online vs. Traditional



Demographics

Overall, learners were ...

- female
- white
- ages 20-60
- married with children
- educated (most had high school diploma or Bachelor's degree). Many with advanced degrees were trained in social work and early childhood education.
- working with parents of young children
- new to parenting education (1-5 years; some up to 20 years)

Many learners had experienced poverty, divorce, teen parenting, and raising a child with special needs. Some had experienced substance abuse and domestic abuse.

Quantitative Results

Significant difference between
pre- and post-test mean values

The program makes a difference!

No significant difference between online and
traditional course format

Both online and traditional formats are effective!

Broad Qualitative Results

- Paradigm shift through application of critical thinking and reflection
- Increased global understanding of parenting education
- Increased understanding of the impact of personal values, beliefs, and expectations on perceptions and expectations of parenting
- Impact on ISU extension staff facilitating *Partnering with Parents*

Specific Qualitative Results

- Network of Providers
- Instructor Knowledge & Professionalism
- Quality Curriculum
- Course Flexibility



Network of Providers

“I really liked the discussions among the participants as it helped me develop my philosophy of parent education.”

“I enjoyed hearing outside perspectives and the community it built among those who attended.”

“I enjoyed the different ideas that were brought up in class in ways to work with individual families. The interaction between the students is what I liked best.”

“I loved the bonds I was able to make with other students taking the class. We felt like a team by the time the classes were over.”

Facilitator Knowledge & Professionalism and Quality Curriculum

“ I really liked the interaction of the students with the instructors during class.”

“The instructor/student interactions for the individual sessions were great. The instructors were professional and yet listened to our concerns and sought out resolutions when required.”

“This provided useful, applicable information for working with families”

Course Flexibility

“I liked that it was offered online. It was flexible and there was plenty of time to work on assignments.”

“The self-paced approach of the modules worked well for me.”

“The course was convenient and easy to use!”

Implications/Discussion



- Consistent with recommended practices for adult and online learning
- Reinforces the importance of
 - Classroom community
 - High quality instruction
 - Organized & thoughtful course design
 - Flexibility in course delivery

2008 Trainings

Traditional Format (10 days)

1. Ames, ISU, 331 Palmer

January 8 - April 29

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

2. Creston, Union County

Extension Office

January 23 – May 21

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Online (5 months)

Jan 14 – June 20

2 day Workshop

May 20 -21

Ames, ISU, 331 Palmer

Topics: *Feeding children, physical activities for families; family stability and financial well-being*

Family Development Certification Training & Partnering with Parents

(12 days)

Marshalltown, Fischer Community Center

Feb 12 – May 27

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.