

FAMILY SUPPORT and CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Crisis Nursery

A grandmother called in looking for some services for her daughter and granddaughter. They are both living with her and both have special needs. The daughter is very young and needs lots of support in raising her baby. Although Grandmother is trying hard it is too much for her to handle. We offered her daughter some crisis care to give them a break from parenting, and we provided a list of community resources to help as well. We were able to include the daughter in some parenting classes offered at the Carroll Center. Follow-up through several home visits have been helpful in linking the daughter to additional services to help her with parenting.

Parent Time Out

A call came in from a mom who was struggling with one of her children. Following a bitter divorce her child was acting out. Mom was at her wits end and felt she and her child needed a break from each other. A referral from the HOPES program had been received on this mom as well. PTO hours allowed us to give them a break from each other. Mom was thrilled. She had also starting working so that was giving them some additional time apart.

CRISIS NURSERY

Crisis nursery programs provide care and support to parents at times of great stress, and thereby serve as a critical component in efforts to prevent child abuse. Crisis nurseries offer a temporary, safe environment for children whose parents face emergencies or crises that make it hard for them to safely care for their children. Services are available to families at any time, and families can use them for up to 72 hours at a time. In fiscal 2008 the Family Resource Center provided **67** children with **3507** hours of care, serving **38** families during a time of crisis.

PARENT TIME OUT

Parents who do not take time for themselves can become overly tired, rundown, or stressed. When this occurs, parents may be more likely to abuse their children. By offering a temporary break from caregiving responsibilities, parent-time-out services reduce stresses of parenting before they overwhelm a family. Parents must use only registered child care homes or licensed centers for up to 6 hours per month at no cost to them in order to give themselves a break in order to reduce their stress.

In fiscal 2008, the Family Resource Center served **215** families, providing **10,923** hours of Parent Time Out childcare for **403** children in a safe and nurturing environment.

SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION

Sexual abuse perpetrators depend on secrecy to keep their abuse from being discovered, and children ages 4-7 are too young to be responsible for their own safety from sexual predators. In 2006, the Family Resource Center began using a research-based curriculum, Care for Kids and Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development, as a way to include parents and teachers in a three-fold informational program that opens the dialogue between parents and children at an early age, thus preventing the secrecy from forming. In fiscal 2008, **66** adults including parents, providers, and teachers and **242** children and special needs adults attended sessions. Most of the classes were held in pre-school and kindergarten classes, but one unique 2-day class was designed for special needs consumers, families, and providers to address this population that is at a heightened risk for sexual abuse.

