

## POLICY FOR PARENT EDUCATION

**Policy:** Parents involved with UMCHS programs will be provided educational and training opportunities to increase their knowledge of, parent involvement, child development, health and safety, family community management and becoming an effective advocate for their child, family and community.

**Procedure:**

1. Education on community resources will be provided at the time of recruitment to include resources within UMCHS that the family may need at that time.
2. Parents will complete the parent interest survey to assess training, volunteer opportunities, and parent support group needs. A copy of the survey will be placed with the child's file, and the original survey will be turned into the Parent Involvement Manager.
3. Center Open Houses will take place prior to the first day of class. The date for the center open house will be given to the Family and Community Development Director prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous program year. The Open House will include pedestrian safety to include bus safety, educational transitional activities, parent handbook (full day programs), and parent calendar. If a parent has not completed the parent interest survey, they will need to do so at this time.
4. A parent education training plan will be turned into the Family and Community Development Director by October 31<sup>st</sup>. The parent education training plan will be utilized to develop parent trainings that will be carried out during the program year at center meetings. The training plan will be developed jointly with staff and parents to implement trainings and activities consistent with parent needs, interest, and cultural and linguistic diversity. Required trainings will include: Child Abuse and Neglect, nutrition, and health and safety. See attached parent portion of the agency training plan. Documentation will be placed in a parent center meeting book.
5. If parents are unable to attend parent center meetings or trainings, trainings will be addressed on a home visit utilizing the parent education home visit form for the training that was missed. Documentation will take place on the Home Visit form and Parent Involvement tracking form. The purpose of these visits is to ensure that parents receive parent education in topics such as child abuse and neglect, child motor and social emotional development, nutrition, budgeting, and health and safety. Home visitors will be responsible to ensure that parents receive all of the required parent education topics.
6. Walkability is a required home visit that needs to be completed by Spring Break of the program year. A copy of the walkability checklist with the center name,

address, route taken, and the family name will be placed in the file and a copy turned into the Community Development Manager. The purpose of the walkability is to help families and staff recognize strengths and concerns of neighborhoods where the family resides. Strengths and concerns may include: health and safety, sanitation, and physical appearance. The checklist will also be utilized in Hermiston, Umatilla and Pendleton to assist with revitalization efforts. The Community Development Manager will view the checklist in remaining communities to review trends and potential action plans. Trainings that can also be utilized during the walkability include: pedestrian safety, physical well being, and environmental hazards.

7. Pregnant mothers and teens must receive the opportunity for pre-natal education on fetal development, labor and delivery, post-partum recovery and depression, and the benefits of breastfeeding. Parents will be referred to programs within our agency and/or community agencies. Home visitors will develop with families an individualized plan tailored to the family's specific needs. Home visitors will utilize **Partners for a Healthy Baby** curriculum for expectant families. Documentation will take place on the Home Visit form and Parent Involvement tracking form.
8. Parenting education classes will occur at least annually in the communities of Milton-Freewater, Pendleton, Hermiston/Umatilla, Morrow County, Wallowa County and Grant County. Curriculums approved for parenting education include The Incredible Years, 1-2-3 Parents!, Four Cornerstones to Financial Literacy, Dr. Dad, What To Do When Your Child Gets Sick and materials from Parents as Teachers.