

Texas LAUNCH NEWS

Linking Action for Unmet Needs in Children's Health

June 2018 – Edition 15

Nat'l Early Childhood Family Network
Parent Café Video Advertisement
Endorsement Study Materials Online
...and more!

National Early Childhood Family Network

Texas LAUNCH had the pleasure to support a Parent Leader in the opportunity to attend the first annual Parent Leadership Summit hosted by SAMHSA in February of 2018. Siri Lindholm, the Director of Development at Healy-Murphy in San Antonio was selected to participate and represented the entire state. Siri has participated on the state Texas LAUNCH Early Childhood Committee as a Parent Leader for over 2 years and took her skills, experience and expertise to a national level to be a founding member of the National Early Childhood Family Network. The purpose of the summit was to identify leaders, learn the history of organized family voice, understand the collaborative leadership model, understand the roles families play in systemic change, gain knowledge around different leadership styles, develop a vision for the network, and explore structures for organization. The Network was born out of the summit and will focus on ensuring children's social and emotional wellbeing/wellness zero to eight, with the goal of promoting legislation and resources supporting early childhood. Next steps for this group include working on internal and external communications, exploring future meeting opportunities and facilitation, and creating a mission and vision for the Network. Click on the [video](#) to learn more.

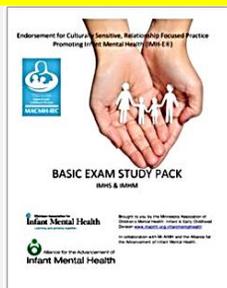


Supporting Children and Parents Affected by the Trauma of Separation

Child Trends recently released an [article](#), written by Jessica Dym Barlett and Maria A. Ramos-Olazagasti, that provides research-based guidance for parents, service providers, communities, and policymakers to support children who have been forcibly separated from their parents. Some of the guidance included: helping families access evidence-based practices and treatment to address trauma and ensuring immigrant populations don't suffer. Additionally the article provides a brief overview of Trauma-Informed Care and how it could assist with children and adults as long as there are proper coordinated supports from all parties listed above. The article ends with suggestions for what policymakers can do specifically to reduce re-traumatization of children. To read the article click [here](#) or subscribe to Child Trends articles and updates from their [website](#).

Endorsement Exam Study Pack Available Online!

Responding to the need of providers seeking Endorsement® yet struggling to find study articles and materials, Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health-Infant and Early Childhood (MACMH-IEC) Division has published an Endorsement® [Basic Exam Study Pack](#) (for a fee) [online](#) or search *SharedBooks Marketplace for Basic Endorsement® Exam Pack* in your phone app store. According to First3Years, obtaining an Endorsement® allows you to be classified as proficient in working with or on behalf of infants, toddlers and their families.



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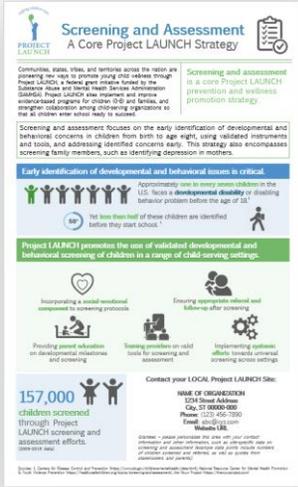
Project LAUNCH Customizable Presentation & Infographics

The Project LAUNCH Technical Assistance Center developed a customizable presentation entitled: [Utilizing Evidence-Based Strategies to Promote Health and Wellness During Early Childhood](#) which provides a brief overview of LAUNCH and draws from national and local data to share the impact story of LAUNCH.

Additionally, the center created customizable infographics for all the major strategies of LAUNCH and are available here:

- [Screening and Assessment](#)
- [Enhanced Home Visiting](#)
- [Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation](#)
- [Behavioral Health Integration Family Strengthening/Parent Skills Training](#)

LAUNCH providers can utilize these tools to engage and bring together stakeholders through consistent and similar messaging and can continue their use to engage support for the project, especially when considering sustainability.



A Closer Look at Parent Cafés

The Parent Café model, started by Be Strong Families out of Chicago Illinois, utilizes a strengths based approach for parents and caregivers to help children stay safe and keep families strong. Parent Cafés (PC) are events where parents come together in a safe and engaging space to talk about their successes and challenges of parenting. Parents learn through self-reflection, peer-to-peer discussion and support, and ultimately to build a community. Discussions are carefully structured to address five main protective factors:

- Resilience
- Positive Social Connections
- Support
- Knowledge
- Communication

The Early Childhood Services of Tarrant County MHMR and the Texas Department of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing put together a video talking about and demonstrating different aspects of a PC. They both believe in the process and have seen positive outcomes for their families involved. Arrenia Thomas, featured in this Parent Café marketing [video](#), states that “Seeing someone be truly affected and emotional after sharing their story with a stranger lets you know this process works and they will be back”. [Check out this video](#) and listen as Arrenia walks you through the process and check out their calendar of events to find out when their next café will be!

