

# IFDCO CONFERENCE 2009

## ABSTRACT

### **Partners in Parenting Program**

The Partners in Parenting Program is an innovative program that utilises the skills of Family Day Carers and the opportunities present in the Family Day Care environment to teach parenting skills. The uniqueness of this kind of parenting program is that it combines many of the key characteristics of effective parenting programs in the non-threatening, accessible setting provided by the Family Day Care home. These include provision of information and opportunities for discussion backed up by modelling and then rehearsal of techniques.

The program operates with parents of children 0 to 5 who are having difficulty understanding and managing the behaviour of their child/ren attending a Family Day Care home once a week for a two hour session over a six week period. Their child attends with them and while they join in the FDC program, the parent is able to discuss positive behaviour management strategies and child development, observe the Carers' interaction with the children and then practice these techniques on their own child as the opportunity arises. An additional benefit that has been seen is that a mentoring relationship frequently develops between the Carer and parent who feels supported and empowered in their parenting role.

Before commencing in the program the parents identify up to six practical goals that they want assistance with, such as "developing a mealtime routine" or "learning how to discipline without using physical punishment or threats". These goals are used as a basis for discussions with the Carer and then are used as the baseline for evaluation at the end of their placement so that parents can identify specific changes they have made in their parenting.

These changes in parenting practices are of interest to policy makers and PIP is currently being evaluated by the University of Newcastle with a grant from the Federal Attorney General's Crime Prevention Program. Positive feedback collated to date indicate substantive parent endorsement of the program and a training package is being developed to provide all Family Day Care services in Australia with the tools to implement their own PIP. This is expected to be completed at the end of 2009.

The Project will be introduced and described by the Coordinator, Greta Hundley. One of the Carers in PIP, Liz Shanahan, will present case studies of the families she has worked with and the results she has seen in her own Family Day Care service. Interim results from the evaluation will be presented as will a draft of the training package.

#### Presenters:

Greta Hundley (Bachelor Social Work 1986, Master of Policy and Applied Social Research 2001) Project Coordinator, Family Child Care Services Central Coast, NSW Australia

Liz Shanahan, Family Day Carer for Family Child Care Services Central Coast for 19 years.

Length: 45-60 minutes presentation, can do workshop format if required.

CONTACT:

Greta Hundley (ph):6124352 5214 pip@wyongfdc.asn.au