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Our mission is to provide comprehensive mental health and social services to children and their families. Developing healthy alternatives to abuse and violence, addressing emotional and behavioral challenges, results in healthy children, families and communities.

“Early Attachments” Infant-Toddler Center

Mental health issues can pose enormous psychological, social, and economic burdens to families and societies. Extensive research has demonstrated that early intervention programs can be a “powerful prevention strategy” for avoiding the high cost of social services.¹ ICGC strives to provide those critical prevention services with its new “*Early Attachments*” *Infant-Toddler Center (ITC)*, which targets children between the ages of 0-5. The Infant-Toddler Center identifies young children and families at risk for abuse, neglect, developmental delays, and mental or behavioral problems and provides the support and the services they need to maintain strong and healthy families.



Summer outreach event at Chet Holifield Library in Montebello

Families referred to the Infant-Toddler Center usually have complex family situations; in some cases, the children may be living with their grandparents, the parents may be involved in substance abuse, or the parents might be teen parents. ICGC makes every effort possible to provide services to each family through our multiple funding sources available. Families are self-referred or are referred to the Infant-Toddler Center by one of

our program staff, community based agencies, or by Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital, our health partner for the program, etc. Once families are referred to the Infant-Toddler Center, they receive a full range of intervention and prevention services. If the families are dealing with an emergency situation, as in cases where a

¹ World Health Organization. Prevention of Mental Disorders: Effective Interventions and Policy Options. 2004

child's safety is compromised, we provide crisis intervention services. We also provide mental health services for children and family members who have a qualifiable diagnosis. By intervening early in the child's life, we try to prevent more serious problems from developing.

In addition to mental health services, many families derive benefits from other services of the program such as the parenting groups that are led by one of our staff.

These parent groups meet once a week for six weeks and teach parents appropriate parenting skills and tactics, such as learning how to read their baby's cues, and how to praise positive behaviors. One mother of a 2 ½ year old girl affirms that, "I did not know how to react to her. Now I know better and know that my reaction towards her is everything." After participating in



the parent group, she states that "my daughter used to yell all the time and now she actually listens. I'm so thankful for them [ICGC]." Like this mother, other parents have benefited from the parenting groups and have been able to learn appropriate ways of disciplining and interacting with their children. Parents' skills are strengthened and healthy attachments between parents and their children are developed, thereby reducing the child's risk for abuse and neglect.

In addition to parenting guidance, families also receive therapy and case management by our dedicated staff members. These therapy sessions usually take place in the home, which provides a more intimate and comfortable setting for families. Family therapy sessions help strengthen the attachment between the caregiver and the child and also teach families how to maintain a healthy and supportive family dynamic.

Lastly, Infant- Toddler Center staff help connect families with other programs and services in the community they may benefit from. For instance, each child undergoes developmental screening, which is a series of questions that are administered in order to identify any motor, speech, self-help or other developmental delays. If developmental problems are identified, the child may undergo more thorough assessment from an in-house psychologist or may be referred to an outside agency to specifically address the developmental delay. The goal of the Infant-Toddler Center is to integrate its services with other services already available in the community in order to provide all of the prevention and intervention services that families need to support the optimal development of their children.

Families interested in participating in the program may contact Dr. Rose Temblador at (562) 692-0383 ext. 251.

The Infant-Toddler Center is made possible by generous contributions from:

B.C. McCabe Foundation

THE ALBERT AND BETTIE SACCHI FOUNDATION



Supervisor
Don Knabe
County of Los Angeles Fourth District



The list below includes items that can be purchased for Infant-Toddler Center staff to assist in their work with children and families. These items can be sent to:

Intercommunity Child Guidance Center
Attention: Infant-Toddler Center
10155 Colima Rd.
Whittier, CA 90603

A donation can also be made online at www.intercommunity.org by clicking on the red Donate Now button on the homepage.

Wish List

Sit Up & Play Super-Soft Mat #TS317	\$119.00
Soft and Quiet Classroom Blocks #LC1457	\$29.95
Washable Sensory Balls #DD324	\$24.95
Lakeshore Sensory Ball Set #RE322	\$19.95

Available for purchase at www.lakeshorelearning.com

3- Mechanical Timer (for Time-Out)
\$6.99 each

Available for purchase at www.target.com

What to Expect When You're Expecting Series

Available for purchase at www.amazon.com

(Search for "What to Expect Series")

Other items:

1 Portable DVD Player
1 DVD Camcorder
Animal puppets
Doll house
Multicultural dolls
Small rubber balls

Thank you for your support!