

Summary
Wrap Around Home Visitor Competencies
Shared by

CFF/HFA (formerly Resource Mothers)
Early Head Start
Nurse-Family Partnership
Parents as Teachers
Smart Start/Healthy Families America

The Helping Process

1. Use effective communication skills
 - verbal and written
 - convey information objectively and accurately
2. Establish respectful and trusting relationships
3. Maintain professional boundaries
4. Use active listening skills
5. Use effective observation skills
6. Use effective inquiry skills - Reflective questioning, conversational interviewing strategies, motivational interviewing
7. Adapt to adult learning styles
8. Manage conflict
9. Demonstrate problem-solving
10. Assess client needs and strengths: gather, document and interpret data
11. Set goals with clients
12. Support achievement of clients' goals
13. Demonstrate cultural competence
14. Empower clients
15. Support the change process
16. Foster own professional development
17. Nurture own well-being
18. Keep up-to-date with current research and best practices

Promoting Healthy Childhood and Development

1. Increase parents' knowledge of child development
 - a. child development milestones
 - b. brain development and cognitive development
 - c. emotional development – attachment
 - d. socialization
 - e. health, safety, and nutrition
 - f. value of child's play
 - g. school readiness

2. Monitor child's developmental progress
3. Identify possible growth & developmental issues through observation and developmental screenings
4. Initiate linkages to appropriate early intervention services
5. Support parent practices that are critical to child's development
 - a. optimal parent-child interactions
 - b. positive child guidance strategies
 - c. health, safety and nutrition
 - d. language and early literacy
6. Recognize how culture, ethnicity, socioeconomic and family structure factors relate to parenting practices and school readiness

Promoting Family Well-Being

1. Address parents' needs
 - a. Social isolation
 - b. Substance abuse
 - c. Child abuse and neglect
 - d. Domestic violence
 - e. Relationship issues³
 - f. Mental health/perinatal depression
 - g. Stress
 - h. Key transitions
2. Adapt delivery of services to needs of special populations
 - a. Teen parents
 - b. Families with children with special needs
 - c. Military families
3. Consult and collaborate with other professionals to develop a meaningful plan for the family
4. Facilitate families' access to appropriate community resources (formal institutions and informal networks)
 - a. medical care (medical home, health screenings, immunizations)
 - b. financial
 - c. food
 - d. housing
 - e. school readiness
 - f. child care
 - g. home management and life skills
 - h. education and job training
 - i. family support centers
 - j. substance abuse treatment
 - k. domestic violence shelters
5. Advocate for families
6. Support parents' personal development

RESOURCES

Green, B. L., McAllister, C.L., and Tarte, J.M. (2004). The strengths-based practices inventory: A tool for measuring strengths-based service delivery in early childhood and family support programs. *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services*, 85, 326-334.

Healthy Families America www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org/network_resources/training.shtml

Home Visitors Skill Profile – SOLAR (Strengthening Operations for Learning and Results) developed by Education Development Center, Inc for Office of Head Start Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Klass, C.S.(2008). *The Home Visitor's Guidebook – Promoting Optimal Parent & Child Development*. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.

Nurse-Family Partnership Competency Model of Professional Growth – Nurse Home Visitor Clinical Practice Competencies

Parents as Teachers Core Competencies www.parentsasteachers.org/training/knowledge-studio

Strengthening “Second Visitor” Home Visiting Services, Unger and Brown, 2001

Technical Assistant Competences - Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood

Wasik, B.H., and Bryant, D.M. (2001). *Home Visiting, 2nd Edition – Procedures for Helping Families*. London: Sage Publications, Inc.