



building CONNECTIONS

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Parenting Program in Laurens County Proven Effective

A system of parenting programs widely available in Laurens County has been shown effective in preventing child maltreatment and reducing associated measures of injury and foster placement.

A study, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the University of South Carolina, shows that the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program has improved the lives of many families by providing proven parenting information and support.

“This study is important for a number of reasons, but primarily because the Triple P system of interventions appeared to prevent growth of child maltreatment rates in the counties in which it was implemented,” said Dr. Cheri Shapiro, Project Director for Building Connections, the program through the university that provides Triple P training and parenting information. “The study also showed that child out-of-home placements and maltreatment injuries in these same areas both decreased.”

Triple P, founded by Dr. Matthew Sanders in Queensland, Australia, offers suggestions and ideas to help parents build positive relationships with their children. Grounded in 25 years of research, Triple P gives parents simple strategies for handling common behavior problems and preventing future difficulties.

Triple P has been used in nine counties around South Carolina, including Laurens County, since 2003. Professionals who work with families that have young children, like Lynne Todd, the parent coordinator at E. B. Morse Elementary, were trained to use Triple P with the families they see. Todd has witnessed, first hand, how the program affects families.

“Triple P has been very successful, and it has worked,” she said. “Children who had been disruptive in class are now behaving. Parents say things are going much smoother at home, and they love to tell me what has working and how they’re using Triple P.”

Todd is not surprised to hear of the impact Triple P can have on families within a community because she has seen the program reduce the stress and frustration that often accompany the job of parenting.

“After using Triple P, parents are much happier,” she observed. “They come in at their wit’s end, and now when I talk to them they are just excited with smiles on their faces. If I didn’t believe in it, I would definitely not be using it.”

Shapiro is gratified to know that Triple P has been effective for the families that have been touched by the intervention.

“For me, the fact that we might have spared just one child and family the anguish of separation, injury, or harm would have been enough, but that we have been able to do this for a larger number of families truly speaks to the power of large-scale prevention efforts,” she said.

More than 30 providers have been trained in Triple P in Laurens County and are available to help families. It is through these providers that the positive impact of Triple P in the community has been achieved.





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"This level of impact could not have been felt without the investment of time and energy on the part of the hundreds of individuals and organizations who work daily to improve the lives of South Carolina's youngest citizens and their families," Shapiro said.

To find a list of providers or learn more visit the Triple P Web site at <http://tpinfo.sc.edu> or call 1-877-KIDZWIN.

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