

Evidence of Family Outcomes, as collected from parent interviews

- 1. Increased knowledge and use of existing formal resource agencies and mainstream services.**
 - ♣ Referrals to program from 13 agencies
 - ♣ Centre referrals to community agencies and diagnostic services increased
 - ♣ Informal referrals occurring between parents
 - ♣ Self-referrals occurring through local agency maps on display at centres
- 2. Improvement in financial security through increased opportunities for parent involvement in education, training, and employment.**
 - ♣ Half of families involved in work, study, or training
 - ♣ Several families have recently enrolled in TAFE courses
 - ♣ Making plans for work and training when children enter school
 - ♣ Building personal development and work ready skills through involvement in centre activities
 - ♣ Undertaking counselling and developing living skills, as precursors to work or training
- 3. Development of a greater understanding of the importance of early years for learning, development, and social competence.**
 - ♣ Parents identifying own children's developmental challenges, needs, and successes
 - ♣ Learning about health, nutrition, and safety issues
 - ♣ Bringing strategies home: behaviour management, literacy, toilet training
 - ♣ Identifying importance of social skills, school readiness
 - ♣ Greater value put on early childhood education
- 4. Building resilience to risk factors through problem solving strategies, information, and access to local resource agencies.**
 - ♣ Empowered to make positive life changes, such as leaving violent partner or enrolling in TAFE
 - ♣ Able to continue study or training despite facing challenges
 - ♣ Improvements in parent-child relationship
 - ♣ More confident and relaxed in parenting
 - ♣ "We're coping better now" and "we don't feel like we're struggling any more"
- 5. Development of a sense of community where other families provide support and greater use is made of local networks.**
 - ♣ Family oriented celebrations create a community within centres
 - ♣ Parents have initiated networking activities, including pick-up lists and exchanging phone numbers
 - ♣ Parents meet other parents facing similar challenges, and see each other in the local community
 - ♣ Knowledge of support available if needed
 - ♣ Decrease in social isolation

A Case Example: Family 5002

From December 2003--recently entered the program

"Mum feels parenting is difficult and unnatural for her. She often doesn't enjoy parenting, especially when her daughter demonstrates challenging behaviour at home. They recently moved to Sydney and mum is feeling some tension from her partner and her sister who live with them. Mum and her sister recently attended a parent session which eased some of her worries about her daughter's behaviour."



From July 2004

"We (my daughter and I) get along much better now. We don't argue as much because we're not fighting each other for things. I've learned lots of really great tools to work with her and it has brought us a lot closer. I'm a lot more confident in parenting her now. I am able to study now, so I can do something for myself to improve our situation. I've received honours and credits all the way through my first session. Without the support of the centre, I wouldn't have been able to do that. They've also been flexible with my hours to meet my needs. I had pracs on a few days that my daughter wasn't meant to come, but the manager let me slip her in on those days. I've got a lot of support here and I know that if I have a problem I can approach the manager and talk about anything with her."

References

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