

2009 Audio Cast Series

Part 1: Providing a Safe Haven to Expectant Families and Infants, Toddlers and Their Families in Your Program

Applying the Information

You can use the questions below to help you reflect on your work with young children and families. Respond to the questions yourself, or work with a partner or others on your team to discuss how you identify and serve families experiencing homelessness.

1. Consider the definition of homelessness provided in the handouts. Does the definition surprise you? If so, how? Are you serving families who would be considered homeless under this definition?
2. How do the characteristics and practices of the parents experiencing homelessness who you serve compare to those discussed by the panelists? How do you answer those particular needs in your program? What would you enhance/add/do differently after listening to today's discussion?
3. How do the characteristics and practices of the children experiencing homelessness who you serve compare to those discussed by the panelists? How do you respond to those particular issues in your program? What would you enhance/add/do differently after listening to today's discussion?
4. Consider the principles for practice listed in the handouts. How do you already use these principles in your work with families? How would using these principles change your practice?
5. Consider the developmental challenges of children experiencing homelessness. How does your program provide rich developmental experiences for young children? What have you heard in today's audioconference that you and your program can use to enhance those services? What additional information do you need about the effects of homelessness as a traumatic experience on children?
6. Refer to the section in the handouts written for parents. Young children in homeless situations often have trouble with separation and transitions. Have you noticed issues of separation and transition in the children you serve? How do you respond? What have you heard in today's audioconference discussion that can enhance your work around separation and transition? Will you/how will you use this handout in work with parents?
7. Working with intensely stressed families and children is very difficult. *For caregivers and home visitors:* How do you deal with the stress that comes from that work? What supports does your program offer? *For administrators:* How do you support staff working with these families?
8. Panelists on this program talked about how children may come in feeling hungry, tired, and who may even be unclean. Staff, as they work to develop relationships with children and families, can struggle when children do not seem well cared for. Take some time to consider how seeing children who are unclean or hungry can affect you. In these circumstances, how do/can you look at the strengths that families bring?



2009 Audio Cast Series
Part 1: Providing a Safe Haven to Expectant Families and Infants, Toddlers and Their Families in Your Program

Selected Resource List

For more information, see the following resources:

Articles, Books, and Brochures

Bassuk, Ellen, John Buckner, Linda Weinreb, Angela Browne, Shari Bassuk, Ree Dawson, and Jennifer Perloff. "Homelessness in Female-Headed Families: Childhood and Adult Risk and Protective Factors." *American Journal of Public Health* 87 (1997): 241-248.

Bassuk, Ellen and Steven Friedman. *Facts on Trauma and Homeless Children*. Los Angeles, CA: National Child Traumatic Stress Network, 2005.

Hart-Shegos, Ellen. *Homelessness and Its Effect on Children*. Minneapolis, MN: Family Housing Fund, December 1999. Available online at <http://www.fhfund.org/dnld/reports/SupportiveChildren.pdf>

Honig, Alice. *Secure relationships: Nurturing infant/toddler attachment in early care settings*. Washington, DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children, 2001.

Horizons for Homeless Children. *Supporting Children and Families Without Homes: How Can We Help?* Dorchester, MA: Author, 2005.

Lieberman, Alicia. *The Emotional Life of the Toddler*. New York, NY: Free Press, 1993.

Norris-Shortle, Carole, Alison Melley, Laurel Kiser, Eric Levey, Kim Cosgrove, and Audrey Leviton. "Targeted Interventions for Homeless Children at a Therapeutic Nursery." *Zero To Three* 26 (2006), 49-55.

Perry, Bruce. *Helping Traumatized Children: A Brief Overview for Caregivers*. Houston, TX: The ChildTrauma Academy, 2002.

Rice, Kathleen and Betsy Groves. *Hope and Healing: A Caregiver's Guide to Helping Young Children Affected by Trauma*. Washington, DC: ZERO TO THREE, 2005.

Sumner, Georgina, and Anita Spietz. *NCAST: Caregiver/Parent-Child Interaction Teaching Manual*. Seattle, WA: NCAST Publications, 1999.

Web Resources

Homeless Resource Center
www.homeless.samhsa.gov

Horizons for Homeless Children
www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org

National Center on Family Homelessness
www.familyhomelessness.org

National Center for Homeless Education at the SERVE Center
www.serve.org/nche/ibt/ibt.php



2009 Audio Cast Series

Part 1: Providing a Safe Haven to Expectant Families and Infants, Toddlers and Their Families in Your Program

National Coalition for the Homeless (including a directory of local homeless service organizations)

<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/resources/local/local.html>

