

Pathways Counseling Center has received the Early Childhood Mental Health Grant. Through this grant, multiple programs and resources are available to Putnam County Residents who have or work with children ages 0-6. The activities of this grant address issues of mental health that have been identified as a need in the county.

Individual consultation services to children, families and others identified as having significant relationships with a child identified through the referral process are available. Consultation may include classroom observation, meeting with parents/caregivers and teachers to give ideas and tools of how to assist with the behavior that is an issue and a follow-up session to provide any further recommendations.

Pathways will provide in-service sessions to professionals working with children ages 0-6 in Putnam County. These sessions will target classroom and behavior management strategies, as well as the impact of various stressors on children ages 0-6. John Rosemond, a nationally known family psychologist, best-selling author, columnist and speaker will be at Pathways on May 22, 2006 to provide the seminar, Approaching the Reluctant Parent. This seminar is free and open to professionals working with children 0-6 years of age in Putnam County. Space is limited, so pre-registration is recommended. Additional sessions will be made available at a later date.

Parenting presentations will also be offered through this grant. These sessions will center on creating strong nurturing environments and relationships with children ages 0-6. Putnam County residents are encouraged to attend the first of these seminars to be held at Ottawa Glandorf auditorium on May 22, 2006 at 7 pm. Parenting the Strong-Willed Child is the topic of this session and will be presented by John Rosemond, psychologist. Pathways will provide additional parent presentations in the future.

The Early Childhood Mental Health Grant has provided the opportunity for professionals to be trained in the parenting series, The Incredible Years. The Incredible Years are research-based, proven effective programs for reducing children's aggression and behavior problems and increasing social competence at home and at school. Parenting groups will be offered as a result of this training.

The Clinical consultation, Training and Education and Direct Services to young children and those who influence their growth and development are the main components of this grant. These free services are limited to Putnam County residents and professionals working in Putnam County. Any questions regarding this grant or to register for the upcoming seminars should be directed to Elaine Kiene, PCC, Early Childhood Grant Coordinator, ekiene@pathwaysputnam.org or 419-523-4300.