

What is a Family Support Program?

Family support programs are community-based organizations working with children, families and caregivers to enhance strengths, to build capacities and to promote healthy development.

Family support programs deliver a range of services guided by principles that focus on building supportive relationships, facilitating growth, respecting diversity and furthering community development.

Family support programs vary depending on their size, mandate and resources. Services are flexible, accessible and offered in an informal atmosphere. These services may be provided in partnership with other groups. Family support services include:

- child development
- community development
- community outreach
- counseling and mediation
- drop-in programs
- early learning and care
- educational upgrading
- employment assistance
- family literacy
- food and nutrition support
- parent and caregiver support
- parent education
- peer contact and mutual support
- play and recreation
- promotion of health and safety
- referrals to other resources
- toy lending



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