

Enhancing Family Competence Through Literacy Activities

Judy Primavera

Fairfield University

SUMMARY. The present paper describes the range of positive family outcomes found when the parents of low-income preschoolers engage in literacy activities with their children. One hundred parents attended a series of family literacy workshops designed to instruct parents on the use of effective book sharing techniques to use with their children. The goal of the program was to increase the children's school readiness and emergent literacy skills by training parents to be more effective and self-confident "first teachers" of the type of literacy skills necessary for early school success. Parents reported that both the amount of parent-child book sharing increased and the time spent reading was more interesting and enjoyable. Children's language skills as well as their interest in books and learning increased. Personal benefits to the parent

Address correspondence to: Judy Primavera, Department of Psychology, Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT 06430 (E-mail jprimavera@fair1.fairfield.edu).

The author thanks Matthew Cook, Megan Connolly, Stephen Dwyer, Kathleen McGuigan, Anne O'Donnell, Erica Quinn, Nancy Bartlett, Donna Delpo, Kerrin Fenton, and Tara Fischetti for their assistance in data collection and analysis. Special gratitude and recognition is due to Parents as Partners facilitators Thelma Peoples, Dorothy Spears, and Tomilyn Williams. The author also thanks Dr. Janet F. Gillespie for her generous support throughout the life of the project.

This work was supported by the F. M. Kirby Foundation, the Reader's Digest Foundation, Peoples' Bank, Inc., the Corporation for National Service, the College of Arts and Sciences of Fairfield University, and Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc.

[Haworth co-indexing entry note]: "Enhancing Family Competence Through Literacy Activities." Primavera, Judy. Co-published simultaneously in *Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community* (The Haworth Press, Inc.) Vol. 20, No. 1/2, 2000, pp. 85-101; and: *Diverse Families, Competent Families: Innovations in Research and Preventive Intervention Practice* (ed. Janet F. Gillespie, and Judy Primavera) The Haworth Press, Inc., 2000, pp. 85-101. Single or multiple copies of this article are available for a fee from The Haworth Document Delivery Service [1-800-342-9678, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (EST). E-mail address: getinfo@haworthpressinc.com].

