



EARLY LEARNING MENTOR COACH PROGRAM

About the Mentor Coaches...

Lead Mentor Coach:

Michelle Diaz Dunn has extensive training in children's social-emotional development and has previously led mentoring projects, workshops, and support groups for early childhood teachers, parents, and families. She obtained her Master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education from Johns Hopkins University.

Mentor Coach:

Tessie Jackson has over ten years' experience in early childhood education, parent education, curriculum development, and the coordination of child- and family-based services.



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Family Services, Inc.

An affiliate of Sheppard & Enoch Pratt Foundation

WHAT?

Family Services, Inc. (FSI) received an ARRA grant in October 2010 to provide on-the-job guidance, coaching and training to early childhood classroom teachers, home visitors and family childcare providers at Early Head Start programs in Maryland to promote high quality programming and successful child outcomes.

The Mentor Coach Program objectives are:

- To enhance EHS staff knowledge, attitudes and behaviors to promote nurturing classroom and home environments for all children.
- To provide a foundation for program supervisors to continue to coach staff in techniques for nurturing social-emotional development in young children and their environments.
- To support EHS staff in collecting data to use in curriculum development and continuous program improvement.

WHY?

It is imperative that early childhood providers understand their critical role in the growth and development of young children. A firm foundation in child development enables providers to guide families in supporting their children's social-emotional skills.

Family Services, Inc. has a cadre of skilled and highly trained Mentor Coaches to partner with EHS staff at programs throughout Maryland, reflecting and applying theory and learning to everyday practice. Coaches will work closely with the Maryland Early Childhood Education specialists and utilize resources provided by staff at the National Head Start Centers.

HOW?

Mentor Coaches will offer workshops, facilitated group meetings, and individual coaching at three separate EHS sites. A pre and post assessment will be utilized. Designed as on-the-job training and guidance, the Coaches will coordinate activities with EHS supervisors and management to enhance effectiveness.

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