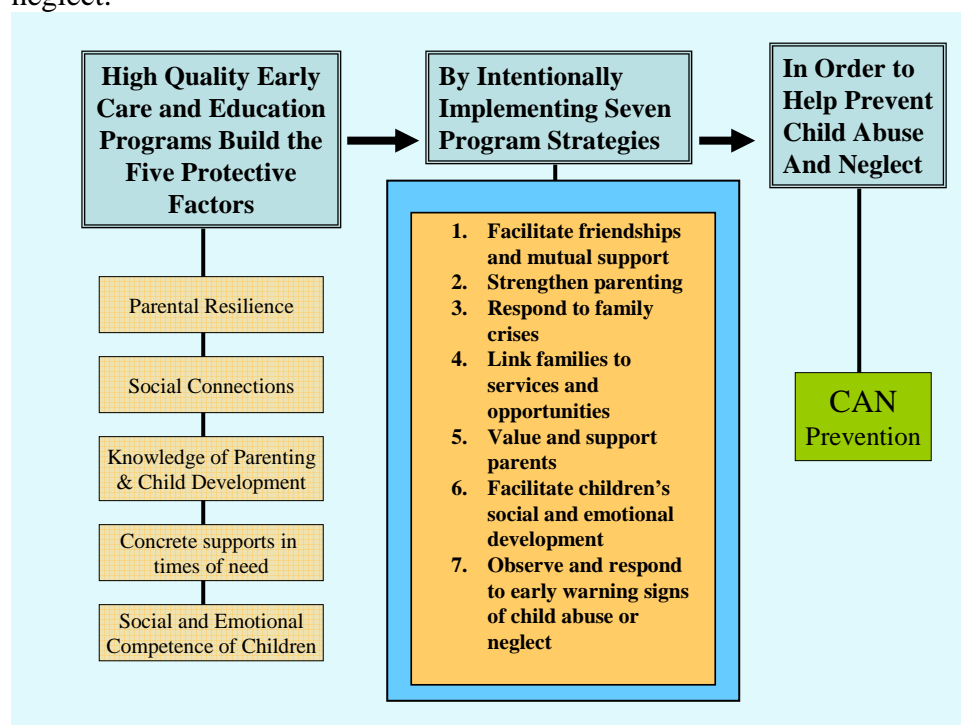


## State Partnerships for Prevention (SPP) Project — *Strengthening Families Arkansas*

The DHS, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education recently confirmed its commitment to participate in the *Zero To Three* State Partnerships for Prevention Project (SPP). The goal of the SPP project is to strengthen states’ child abuse and neglect prevention initiatives, focusing on supporting the capacity of child care providers to help prevent child maltreatment in families with very young children. The national project involves Arkansas and eleven other states.

The SPP Project is designed to bring the curriculum *Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect (PCAN): Parent-Provider Partnerships* to states. Through participating in a train-the-trainer workshop, experienced trainers will be enabled to deliver the curriculum to Arkansas child providers. The curriculum is built on the framework introduced by the *Strengthening Families Initiative*. Seven specific program strategies are emphasized in the PCAN curriculum. When early care and education programs intentionally implement these seven program strategies they help to build five protective factors with the children and families that they serve. Research has indicated that these five protective factors decrease the risk of child abuse and neglect.



### SPP Project Alignment with *Strengthening Families Arkansas*

The *Strengthening Families Arkansas* was initiated in 2005, as Arkansas was chosen as one of seven states to pilot the use of the *Strengthening Families* conceptual framework with early care and education professionals in an organized and intentional statewide effort. For the past two years, twenty-one of Arkansas’ highest quality early care and education programs participated in a learning network. Five of

these programs were designated as “Promising Practice Programs” and were able to receive some additional technical assistance in implementing *Strengthening Families* principles. It became evident early in the process that early care and education programs were eager to learn more about the *Strengthening Families* framework and concepts, but an organized and effective way to offer support to early care professionals was needed.

In February 2006, the Alliance for Children’s Trust Funds issued an RFP to assist states in implementing *Strengthening Families*. Arkansas was awarded one of the nine \$25,000 grants, and with matching funds from Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education and the Arkansas Children’s Trust Fund was able to leverage the funding to develop an on-line training module that will enable early care and education programs to fully utilize the *Strengthening Families* self-assessment tool. Authors of the *Zero To Three* curriculum, *Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect (PCAN): Parent-Provider Partnerships* have been partnering with *Strengthening Families Arkansas* in the development of the online tool, utilizing parts of the PCAN curriculum. This module will be targeted to early care and education program directors, and will help them to utilize the SF self-assessment tool. The use of this tool is currently contained in the proposed quality rating system draft as a requirement for directors at Level 3.

Arkansas joins eleven other states in the **State Partnerships for Prevention** project at *Zero to Three*. The ability to support and expand the online training with a field-delivered curriculum will strengthen the capacity of early care and education programs in Arkansas to implement a *Strengthening Families* approach with their children and families. Through this project, up to 30 additional trainers in Arkansas will learn to use the PCAN curriculum. These trainers will then work with child care providers in seven targeted counties (Miller, Hempstead, Independence, Pulaski, Saline, Searcy, and Van Buren) and throughout Arkansas to train them on the role they play in the prevention of child maltreatment.



## Project Specifics

The Arkansas State Partnerships for Prevention (SPP) project is committed to the optimal healthy development and safety of all children in Arkansas. The SPP network of specialists endeavors to support early care professionals as they seek to establish responsive, supportive relationships with families through the use of:

- Self-awareness (recognizing one’s own reactions, thoughts, and feelings about a situation)
- Careful observation (gathering information to fully understand a situation)
- And flexible response (selecting responses based on observation and knowledge of a situation).

## Desired Project Outcomes:

### **Major Goals:**

- Increased awareness among Early Care & Education professionals about *Strengthening Families* concepts and strategies
- Increased parent involvement in early care and education programs
- Increased utilization by Early Care & Education professionals of three key concepts (self-awareness, careful observation & flexible response) to strengthen parent-provider partnerships

### **Major Activities:**

- Initial Train-the-Trainer event for 8 multi-disciplinary teams
- 2 trainings by each team over 16 month project period
- 7 community-based teams deliver trainings to local child care providers
- 1 “conference” team delivers curriculum at statewide venues and serves as mentors to community-based teams
- Creation of SPP steering committee (DCCECE, DCFS, DBH, higher ed., Head Start, etc.), providing support & guidance to the project
- Continuous evaluation, including documentation of changes that are occurring on a community level due to SPP training
- Quarterly conference calls with all PCAN trainers
- 10 distance learning opportunities correlated to 10 units of curriculum from *Zero to Three*
- Peer mentoring opportunities for both SPP trainers and for Early Care professionals
- One day follow-up for all teams with Z-3 staff 6-9 months after initial three-day training

### **Responsible Parties:**

- 8 Multi-disciplinary teams
- SPP steering committee
- Arkansas DHS/DCCECE serving as lead agency, with partnership with DHS/DCFS and DHS/DBH
- *Strengthening Families Arkansas* leadership team/ ECCS steering committee

## Trainer Participant Commitments

Participants on the seven community based multi-disciplinary teams will agree to:

- Attend three full days of training at the Lodge at Mt. Magazine on August 7-9, 2007
- All participants involved in SPP training for trainers complete a pre and post survey. Following is the link to the pre survey “Complete Child Abuse and Neglect Self-Efficacy Survey (CANSES)” <http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB226LSPBCGKK>
- Deliver at least 2 trainings (1.5 – 6 hours in length) at no charge to child care providers during the 16-month timeline of the grant, which ends in July 2008
- Provide DHS/DCCECE with projected schedule of trainings
- Coordinate trainings with Mentor assigned to the community-based training team
- Participate in quarterly audio-conference
- Complete 10 individual distance learning activities coordinated with 10 curriculum units (see p. 5 for SPP project timeline) and made available from *Zero to Three*
- Prepare for and attend the follow up one-day training for trainers held 6-9 months following initial three-day training
- Participate in evaluation and provide appropriate documentation as needed

Participants on the “Conference/Mentor” team will agree to:

- Participate in SPP project as stated above for the seven community-based teams
- Serve as mentor to at least one community based SPP team, providing technical assistance and support when needed and as requested
- Agree to deliver at least 2 trainings (1.5 – 6 hours in length) over the 16 month project period at statewide and regional conference venues.

## Project Funding

The project is funded to allow for:

- Food and lodging for three day train-the-trainer event at Mt. Magazine
- Travel reimbursement for trainers and participants (early care professionals)
- Substitute care for early care professionals
- Curriculum and materials for trainers
- Copies for all participants (trainers and participants) of the Strengthening Families *Protecting Children by Strengthening Families: A Guidebook for Early Childhood Programs*
- Supply budget for training needs
- Food budget (most likely a noon meal) for the actual trainings.

## Train the Trainer Event

- When:** August 7-9, 2007  
August 7 - registration begins at 9:00 a.m.; training begins at 9:30 a.m.  
August 9 - training adjourns by 3:30 p.m.
- Where:** The Lodge at Mt. Magazine – Mt. Magazine State Park  
(<http://www.mountmagazinestatepark.com/lodge-cabin-rest/lodge/>)
- Who:** Eight multi-disciplinary teams composed of trainers with expertise in child welfare, early childhood education and early childhood mental health; *Zero to Three* training team; DHS/DCCECE agency personnel
- CEUs:** If you would like to receive CEUs, please notify [Paula.C.Watson@arkansas.gov](mailto:Paula.C.Watson@arkansas.gov)



National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families

**Timeline for the State Partnerships for Prevention Project : March 2007- July 2008**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Participants</b>
06/05/2007-06/07/2007	<b>North Dakota Training</b>	State Leads; ZTT staff; Trainers
06/12/2007-06/14/2007	<b>South Carolina Training</b>	State Leads; ZTT staff; Trainers
06/19/2007-06/21/2007	<b>New York Training</b>	State Leads; ZTT staff; Trainers
07/11/2007	<b>Distance Learning Introductory Session</b>	Trainers
07/10/2007-07/12/2007	<b>Missouri Training</b>	State Leads; ZTT staff; Trainers
07/17/2007-07/19/2007	<b>Oklahoma Training</b>	State Leads; ZTT staff; Trainers
07/26/2007	Online Distance Learning-Unit 1 Available	
08/07/2007-08/09/2007	<b>Arkansas Training</b>	State Leads; ZTT staff; Trainers
8/22/2007-09/05/2007	Audio Conference I*	Trainers
09/30/2007	Online Distance Learning –Unit 2 Available	
10/24/2007	Quarterly Reports Due	Trainers
10/25/2007	Online Distance Learning-Unit 3 Available	Trainers
11/29/2007	Online Distance Learning-Unit 4 Available	Trainers
01/09/2008-01/11/2008	Audio Conference II*	Trainers
01/2008-02/2008	<b>State Trainings (1-day follow-up)</b>	State Leads; ZTT staff; Trainers
01/25/2008	Online Distance Learning-Unit 5 Available	Trainers
02/20/2008	Quarterly Reports Due	Trainers
02/22/2008	Online Distance Learning-Unit 6 Available	Trainers
03/22/2008	Online Distance Learning-Unit 7 Available	Trainers
03/26/2008	Audio Conference	Trainers
04/04/2008-04/18/2008	Audio Conference III*	Trainers
04/26/2008	Online Distance Learning-Unit 8 Available	Trainers
05/22/2008	Online Distance Learning-Unit 9 Available	Trainers
06/18/2008	Quarterly Reports Due	Trainers
06/26/2008	Online Distance Learning-Unit 10 Available	Trainers
07/11/2008-07/28/2008	Audio Conference IV*	Trainers
09/19/2008	Final Reports Due	Trainers

\* Trainers must select one participation date.