

WHAT OUTCOMES SHOULD PROGRAMS FOR ADOLESCENT PARENTS AND THEIR YOUNG CHILDREN SEEK TO ACHIEVE?

Self-Sufficiency Outcomes for Pregnant and Parenting Teens:

- Increased school attendance
- Increased progression toward school completion
- Increased graduation from high school with diploma
- More successful movement from school to further education and training or employment
- Increased length of time between first birth and second pregnancy

Developmental Outcomes for Children of Adolescent Parents:

- Increased healthy births
- Increased age-appropriate physical, emotional, cognitive and social development
- Increased readiness for school success
- Increased on-time receipt of appropriate health and child development services

Outcomes for Families:

- Increased practice of good parenting skills, including ability to obtain needed services for one's children and to provide developmentally appropriate nurturing and stimulation
- Reduced use of inappropriate discipline
- Reduced incidence of child neglect or abuse and domestic violence

WHAT ARE THE CORE ELEMENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE THOSE OUTCOMES?

Services for Adolescent Parents:

- Flexible, quality educational options
- Quality child care and child development programs
- Access to prenatal care and family planning services
- Case management services
- Family support services that include the teen's own family and potentially the child's father
- Parenting, child development and nutrition education
- Support services, including transportation assistance
- Transition support to post-secondary education, training or employment services

Services for Children:

- Quality child care and child development programs
- Well-child care, including immunizations and physical examinations
- Developmental and other screens (including lead screens) with appropriate follow-up services
- Access to health care services

For more details on best practices of these program elements, please see "School-Based Programs for Adolescent Parents and Their Young Children: Guidelines for Quality and Best Practice." Susan T. Batten and Bonita Stowell, Bala Cynwyd, PA: CAPD October 1996.