



“As an attorney representing parents in the dependency system in Santa Clara County(CA) for 14 years, I can confidently say that *Celebrating Families!*[™] is by far the most effective class. It is the only class I’m aware of that is hands-on and involves the entire family. I always advocate for *Celebrating Families!*[™]”

Happy Spring! And a busy time for us!

- Mary Gardner, Project Director, and I have given a number of talks locally to the Dependency Drug Oversight Team, Mentor Parents, and Attorneys for the Parents. Here’s what we learned and heard:
 - Santa Clara County CA which provides *Celebrating Families!*[™](CF!) has a median length of stay for children in foster care of 4.8 months. In Sacramento, another CF! site, the stay is 5.4 months. The CA state average is 8.5 months. More proof - CF! has significant impact on family reunification.
 - When Mentor Parents were asked “What do you practice today that you learned in CF! (3-5 years ago)? ” the responses were:

- How to be a loving mother
- Dinner Time.... to sit down all together to eat as a family.
- Communication is the key.
- Reading to my kids for the very first time.
- Family Time accepting that families come from different sizes, people...no shame....

- To shower my kids with love and hugs.
- Affirmations
- The importance of just spending time and being present with and for my kids.
- Being consistent with everything I do.
- Being honest with my children.
- Taking time for each of my kids.
- Always being able to tell my kids every day that I love them.

- The writing team continues to monitor the first 0-3 pilot sites. EMQ-FF Addiction Prevention Services and Parisi House on the Hill will start their pilots late this summer. What are we learning?
 - Many parents never played simple games with their small children, such as *Itsy, Bitsy Spider*, nor did anyone play with them in their childhood. And, parents are observed remembering and playing these simple games later “at home” (in the residence).
 - There is a ripple from teaching staff new strategies to use in CF! to their own use of the strategies in providing higher quality childcare.
 - There is lot to learn as the research is growing rapidly on the importance of this early period. If you want to learn more look up: Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University: www.developingchild.harvard.edu or ZERO TO THREE: www.zerotothree.org
 - There is controversy: We encourage “no” (zero) screen time for all electronics for children ages 0-2 and limited, supervised time after that, recommended by Am Academy of Pediatrics. The staffs are challenging us!
- We are also working to update *Keys to Healthy Living*, a children’s only version of the curriculum, developed originally in Russia.
- VERY EXCITING! The PPI team has been invited to present at *2nd Global Conference on Health & Lifestyle --Lifelong Lifestyle Prevention, Accessible to All* held at the WHO headquarters and then return to train in Russia in July!

All of this work depends on our partnerships with sites, collaboration with families and providers, and donors/funders support. We couldn’t do it without any of you and appreciate your support! Always happy to talk with friends – rstisch@gmail.com or 408-406-0467

Rosemary

Rosemary Tisch, Director
Program Developer *Celebrating Families!*

Celebrating Families![™] is a program of NACoA (National Association for Children of Alcoholics.) NACoA offers curriculum materials, technical assistance and training services in collaboration with CF! program developers. Contact NACoA at celebratingfamilies@nacoa.org or you can reach me at rstisch@preventionpartnership.us.
www.preventionpartnership.us and www.celebratingfamilies.net