

PRIDE (Promoting Resources in Developmental Education)

Short Summary

PRIDE is a collaborative program led by Children's Hospital at the Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center in partnership with The Center for Developmental Services. The program is dedicated to the healthy development of children from birth to age five, with a special emphasis on earlier identification of those at risk for developmental and behavioral delays. PRIDE promotes early identification of children with developmental problems, and timely referral of these children to appropriate early intervention services.

Since its creation in 2004, PRIDE has successfully linked collaborating partners with its community's best resources to address the need for earlier identification of developmental delays. PRIDE partners each play a variety of roles in reaching parents and children to promote healthy development, and they already have credibility with professionals and families within the community regarding developmental issues. PRIDE continues to seek out new relationships and expand existing ones with agencies and organizations serving vulnerable populations. The PRIDE program's initial pilot period focused primarily on Greenville County. With ongoing funding from The Duke Endowment and other local organizations, PRIDE looks to expand to neighboring Spartanburg County. This next step in the process provides unique opportunities for more rigorous study and assessment of the program, incorporating lessons learned from the pilot and careful comparisons of Greenville and Spartanburg counties.

Demographics

- *Target Settings:* Early identification and intervention for children who have developmental and behavioral disabilities
- *Target Groups Served:* Infants through preschool; Medical community and parents and child care providers
- *Schools/Districts Served:* Greenville County (physician outreach is in 8 Upstate counties and parent outreach through developmental milestone education is statewide with about 55% of population served still Greenville County)

Research and Evaluation

The development of program/initiative is based on/grounded in what research? Describe the evidence that shows the program/initiative works. Description of data collection and analysis should be included.

In recent years there has been an explosion in knowledge of early brain development pointing to the extraordinary influence of the early years on a child's healthy development and learning. Research in neuroscience and developmental/behavioral science proves that the experience of the first few years of life have a direct and lasting impact on a child's future learning, behavior, and health – all important determinants of a child's readiness to succeed in school. Enhanced understanding of brain development has profound implications for public policy and funding priorities. If children do not start out on the right path from birth, much of what follows is compensation for what was missed. Child health services offer a great opportunity to improve outcomes for school readiness since it is the one point of contact that is nearly universal for children during their first five years.

- 92% of parents report knowing more about appropriate developmental stages and feel better prepared to talk to their doctors about them if they have concerns after going through the Mind Your Milestones program. Of these participants, 91% report being better equipped to deal with their child's behavior and to discipline their child in a positive and age-appropriate way. Of these participants, 91% report being better equipped to deal with their child's behavior and to discipline their child in a positive and age-appropriate way after participating in the parenting classes offered by the PRIDE program.

- More than 500 medical professionals have been introduced to and trained in the use of a standardized developmental screening tool (PEDS: Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status) in compliance with the American Academy of Pediatrics practice guidelines issued in 2001 and revised in 2006. In the most recent survey of Greenville County physicians, 16 of 17 pediatric practices are using the PEDS tool to formally screen its young patients. Continued technical support and professional training on developmental/behavioral issues has resulted in an overall increase in regular screening of children for developmental concerns and an annual increase of almost 15% in physician referrals of children in need of further evaluation. Our medical outreach has expanded to include training of and ongoing support to 68 practices in 8 different counties (Greenville, Spartanburg, Oconee, Pickens, Anderson, Laurens, Cherokee and Union). Ongoing support is provided in maintaining practice systems on developmental screening and serving as a resource for linkage to appropriate community services for families.
- Some highlights of PRIDE's successes include having more than 14,000 families of children age birth to five receive regular information about typical early childhood development through participation in *Mind Your Milestones*. Parents learn not only what milestones their child should be reaching in a certain age range, but what specific activities they can do with their child to promote healthy development. In 2010, a total of 280 parents had completed one of two nationally-recognized parenting classes. More than 1,000 child care providers had completed a basic five-hour training designed to increase knowledge of early child development, recognition of potential developmental delays, and ability to communicate with parents about their concerns and appropriate community resources. Due to participant demand, an advanced training module that focuses on how to observe and assess young children was introduced in 2007. More than 130 childcare providers have completed the advanced course. In 2008, PRIDE led a Greenville team in applying for a national technical assistance grant to replicate Connecticut's *Help Me Grow* program, a nationally-recognized model of linking families with at-risk children to services and programs. PRIDE was awarded one of only two national grants in 2010 that will provide two years of technical assistance in designing a *Help Me Grow* model in Greenville with eventual statewide dissemination.

Program Resources

- *Annual Cost: Approximately \$250,000*
- *Funding Sources: Duke Endowment with additional support from United Way*
- *Staffing Needs: Director and support staff*
- *Infrastructure/Equipment Needs: In kind support provided by Greenville Hospital System*
- *Partner Organizations: The Center for Developmental Services and the Greenville Hospital System's Children's Hospital, Division of Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics. Other partners include: First Steps, Family Connection, DHEC programs such as Newborn Home Visitation and WIC, Nurse-Family Partnership, SC Center for Child Care Career Development, A Child's Haven, Head Start and Early Head Start, YMCA, YWCA, Greenville County Schools, Mauldin Cultural Center, and Café Coutura*

Contact Information

Jane Witowski; jwitowski@ghs.org; 864-454-2104

<http://www.ghschildrens.org/pride.php>

