



School Based Parenting Education Programs in Oneida County CCE

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Since 2015, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Oneida County (Oneida CCE) has been at the forefront of offering comprehensive parent programs in collaboration with various school districts, laying the groundwork for a more informed and supportive community. This partnership, initially sparked by the "Parent Jam Sessions," has evolved into a sustainable endeavor that continues to benefit families.



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During the public sessions, open to all, parents engage in educational activities and discussions led by experienced professionals. While parents participate in these sessions, their children are provided with supervised activities in a separate classroom, ensuring a conducive learning environment for both parents and children. Through these initiatives, parents deepen their understanding of effective parenting practices and gain valuable skills to navigate the challenges of raising children.

This partnership has seen remarkable sustainability over the years, expanding from its initial sessions in the Dolgeville School District to encompass the Rome School District and later reaching the Central Valley School District over multiple years. The continuity of this momentum is owed to effective collaboration with community entities, and sustained financial support, ensuring the longevity and effectiveness of the initiative.

Overall, the outcomes of this partnership are evident in the strengthened relationships within families, the enhanced well-being of parents and children, and the cultivation of a more resilient and informed community. Through ongoing efforts, Oneida CCE continues to serve as a model for prioritizing the holistic development of families through effective parenting education programs.

Learn more about this partnership [here](#).

Introduction

Recognizing the significant impact of effective parenting on children's development, schools are acknowledging the need for comprehensive parenting education programs within their systems. This case study highlights parenting education initiatives, drawing on insights from existing programs in Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Oneida County (Oneida CCE). By examining the experiences and outcomes of existing programs, this case study aims to underscore the importance and inherent benefits of integrating parenting education within school systems, emphasizing the potential to foster a supportive environment for both parents and children alike within a familiar and safe learning environment.

Background

Parenting education programs are initiatives designed to provide parents and caregivers with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary for effective parenting. These programs cover a wide range of topics, including child development, positive discipline techniques, communication strategies, and the promotion of a nurturing and supportive family environment. By offering guidance on various aspects of parenting, these programs contribute to the overall well-being of children and parents, fostering healthy family relationships and optimizing the developmental outcomes for children.

CCE county associations collaborate with local communities by offering workshops, classes, and resources that address specific needs. The educational mission of CCE parenting education is to provide research-based information to families in communities. County associations actively engage with community agencies and school districts to support families through parenting classes and community workshops. Through these efforts, CCE works to foster community engagement, extending its impact beyond conventional educational offerings. Oneida CCE parenting education programs have grown and continue to reach greater numbers of families, beginning with only 20-25 parents, and further expanding to up to 140 parents. The curricula used in Oneida CCE include *The Magic Years* and *Discipline is Not a Dirty Word*. *The Magic Years* curriculum is designed for families with children aged birth to age four, offering research-based information to enhance parenting skills. It equips educators with tools to communicate best practices in child development and parenting to caregivers. The program helps participants deepen their understanding of how parenting behaviors affect children. It integrates FNEC-approved (Food and Nutrition Education in Communities) nutrition lessons, ensuring a comprehensive approach to early childhood education. The program *Discipline Is Not a Dirty Word* focuses on challenging the negative implications associated with discipline in child-rearing. Contrary to viewing discipline as punitive or unpleasant, the program seeks to redefine it

as a positive and constructive aspect of parenting. This curriculum provides parents with effective strategies to guide and teach their children, fostering a supportive and respectful family dynamic. By emphasizing positive discipline techniques, the program encourages caregivers to nurture a healthy parent-child relationship while promoting the development of essential life skills in children.

Forming and maintaining the relationship

The partnership, which began in 2015 with the securing of a grant for "Parent Jam Sessions" has demonstrated remarkable sustainability over the years. The collaboration initially unfolded with sessions in the Dolgeville School District, subsequently expanding to the Rome School District and later reaching the Central Valley School District over three years. The continuity of this momentum owes much to proactive grant writing efforts and effective collaboration with entities like Connected Community Schools. Notably, sustained financial support has played a pivotal role in ensuring the program's ongoing success. This strategic combination of proactive grant acquisition and collaborative efforts with community entities has been instrumental in maintaining the longevity and effectiveness of the initiative.

Program Personnel

In Oneida CCE, the selection of program personnel for the parenting education initiative is anchored in expertise and a commitment to ongoing professional development. Richelle Singer, the dedicated program personnel, holds a master's degree in early childhood education, bringing a wealth of knowledge to the role. Her educational background is complemented by a commitment to staying current on the latest advancements in the field, demonstrated through regular attendance at continuing education programs. This unique blend of academic qualifications, dedication to professional growth, and specialized training equips Richelle to effectively lead and implement the parenting education program in Oneida CCE, ensuring its relevance and impact on the community.

Partners and supports

The program has benefited significantly from its engagement with the Ready for Kindergarten program facilitated by United Way. This collaboration was pivotal for providing resources, expertise, and a broader community reach, enhancing the program's impact on families and creating a safe space for learning. Additionally, the involvement of Connected Community Schools has been instrumental in fostering a supportive environment. The collaborative efforts of these partners demonstrate an approach where the unique strengths of each entity contribute to the overall effectiveness of the parenting education initiative in Oneida CCE. The combined

support from United Way's Ready for Kindergarten program and Connected Community Schools exemplifies a community-driven commitment to the success and well-being of families in the region.

Conclusion

The examination of existing parenting education programs in Oneida CCE highlights the invaluable role such initiatives play in fostering a resilient and informed community. These partnerships underscore the importance of integrating parenting education within school systems, and contribute significantly to the well-being of families, promoting positive parent-child relationships and creating a supportive environment. The case study findings demonstrate that investing in parenting education not only benefits individual families but also cultivates a foundation for stronger, more connected communities. The lessons learned from Oneida CCE can serve as a model for other agencies seeking to prioritize the well-being of families through effective parenting education programs.

Visit [The Parenting Project website](#)

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