

The North Carolina Parenting Education Network (NCPEN) is working to build the field of parenting education in the state with a focus on partnership between parents and child care providers, teachers, and parent educators. Working together, we can help each child reach his or her potential. NCPEN is an unfunded collaboration of parenting education organizations and agencies. For more information about NCPEN, see our web site at www.ncpen.org.

What do parent educators need to know?

by Karen DeBord, Associate Professor & State Specialist, Child Development
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Many practitioners are asking themselves how the field of parenting education can ensure that quality parenting education programs are taught by competent professionals and are looking to others to provide the answer. Within the national Cooperative Extension System, family life and human development specialists suggested the National Extension Parenting Educators' Framework (NEPEF) to frame professional development for parenting educators.

The NEPEF has two dimensions, each containing six domains of competency. One dimension outlines the Content knowledge needed by parenting educators while the other dimension outlines the Processes that parenting educators need to work effectively with parents and children. A brief overview of each dimension follows.

The Content Dimension

The Content dimension is composed of six knowledge domains for parents. These are the areas in which parents need information, knowledge and skills.

Care for Self: includes knowledge about managing stress, managing family resources, getting support from and giving support to other parents, developing a sense of purpose in parenting, setting child-rearing goals; and developing strategies for cooperating with one's child-rearing partners. Parenting educators are also reminded to recognize and build upon the personal strengths of parents.

Understand: focuses attention

on basic knowledge of child development and emphasizes how children can influence as well as be influenced by the people, places, and events that surround them.

Guide: underscores the importance of parenting strategies that engage a child in appropriate and desired behaviors; establish and maintain reasonable limits; provide developmentally appropriate opportunities for learning; convey fundamental values; and, teach problem-solving skills.

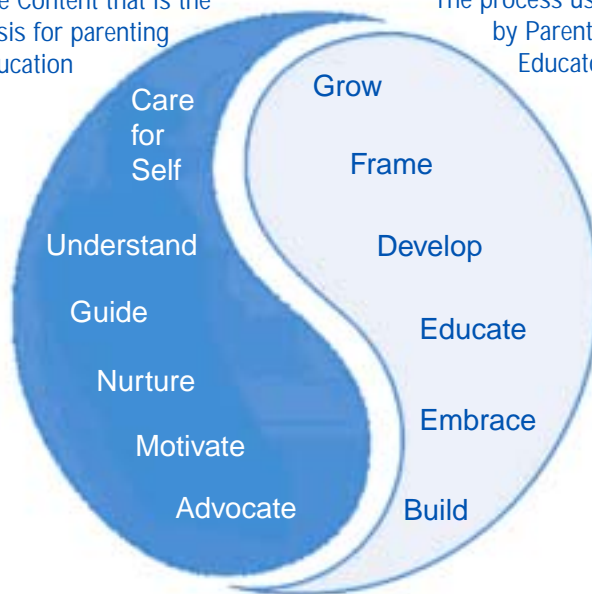
Nurture: emphasizes the importance of teaching appropriate expressions of affection and compassion; fostering children's self-respect and hope; teaching kindness; providing for the nutrition, shelter, clothing, health, and safety needs of children; and, helping children feel connected to their family histories and cultural heritages.

Motivate: underscores the importance of stimulating children's curiosity, imagination, and search for knowledge; teaching children about

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The Content that is the basis for parenting education

The process used by Parenting Educators





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themselves, others, and the world around them; creating beneficial learning conditions, and helping children to process and manage information.

Advocate: highlights the value to be derived for parents and children by finding and connecting with community-based programs, institutions, and professionals; by representing their children’s needs so important link-ages with community service providers can be forged; and, by speaking up and taking action when policies and procedures impede their children’s growth or interfere with their family functions.

The Process Dimension

The Process dimension of NEPEF focuses on the professional

skills and abilities that parenting educators need in order to determine needs of parents. This includes assessing the type of parenting information that parents need and want, the delivery mode best suited for the parents, and the optimal delivery time so the information can be readily used by the parents.

These unique skills, referred to as process skills, include:

- 1.** the capacity to take stock of one’s own professional competence;
- 2.** a well-rounded knowledge of various theories of child, family, and adult development;
- 3.** competency in assessing needs, marketing programs, and evaluating their effectiveness and impact;
- 4.** familiarity with and an appreciation for the diversity of family

culture, structures and values;

5. an ability to utilize a variety of teaching and learning strategies; and

6. expanding one’s understanding of the field by engaging in professional networks and organizations.

The Process side, like the Content side of NEPEF is composed of six domains: Grow, Frame, Develop, Embrace, Educate, and Build. The priority practices have been briefly outlined as follow:

Grow: refers to personal growth as a professional—knowing yourself and understanding how this affects the way you relate to others;

Frame: refers to knowing theoretical frameworks that guide practice in the field of parenting education;

Develop: refers to planning and marketing programs to educate parents, and developing evaluation processes that are part of a total educational effort;

Embrace: refers to recognizing and responding to differences in ethnicity, family type, and belief systems in populations being served;

Educate: refers to being an effective teacher; knowing how to use various delivery methods, helping parents learn, and challenging them to higher parenting goals;

Build: refers to reaching out to build professional networks; being a community advocate; and connecting with organizations to expand the field of parenting education. □

For more information
and related website links
please visit:

[http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/
depts/fcs/NEPEF/](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/NEPEF/)



"Stomach To Play...Back To Sleep"

The ITS-SIDS Project is a two-year "train-the-trainer" partnership between the North Carolina Healthy Start Foundation and the North Carolina Division of Child Development (DCD). The Project began on July 1, 2002 and will continue through June 30, 2004.

ITS-SIDS is an extension of the education and outreach provided by the Foundation's national award winning **N.C. Back To Sleep Campaign for SIDS Risk Reduction**. It arose from the need to address the occurrence of infants dying suddenly and unexpectedly in child care settings in N.C. and across

the country. While SIDS rates are on the decline, there has been a rise in the numbers of babies dying of SIDS in home child care and in centers nationwide.

Goals & Objectives

The purpose of ITS-SIDS is to: introduce infant/toddler safe sleep guidelines and provide standardized training around ways to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in child care

Using a "train-the-trainers" model, child care providers will be able to get In-service Learning Credits or Continuing Education Units from approved trainers that have participated in the ITS-SIDS training. To find out train-

ing times and locations check out:
<http://www.nchealthystart.org/its/sidstrainingschedule.html>

"PREVENT SIDS" LEGISLATION PASSES GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On July 8, 2003 the Senate unanimously passed legislation requiring child care providers to put babies on their back when placing them to sleep in child care. The law goes into effect December 1, 2003.

Materials

Child care providers and parent educators can **order many SIDS-related educational materials** from the N.C. Healthy Start Foundation through email: its-sids@NCHealthyStart.org. □

Who should attend?

Educators, child care providers, social workers, counselors, teachers, faith leaders, physicians, Cooperative Extension Staff, and other professionals or volunteers who work with families

Locations and Registration

Please contact Karen DeBord at karen_debord@ncsu.edu for downlink information. Simply contact a school or community college with satellite access and promote the program to area interest.



SATELLITE SERIES

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY University Extension

www.extension.iastate.edu/culture

October 23 &
November 13, 2003
1:30-4:30 p.m.
Central Time

Cultural Perspectives on Parenting

[Enhance your ability to work with families of diverse cultures]

Learn to Organize, Tailor, and Deliver Services to Culturally Diverse Families.

Cultural Perspectives on Parenting is a two-part national satellite educational series from Iowa State University Extension. This program will help you understand the influence of

culture on parenting, and how to use family-centered practices to better support families of diverse cultures. In turn, these families will be better able to meet the developmental needs of their children, and build on their families' strengths.

North Carolina Parenting Education Network

If you or your organization is interested in becoming a member of the North Carolina Parenting Education Network please visit our website at www.ncpen.org. or fill out the following information. If you are an individual wishing to subscribe to the North Carolina Parenting Education Network Newsletter without becoming a member you can fill out the following information.

Taken from the NCPEN bylaws:
Membership Dues – Each member of the association shall pay annual dues of ten (\$10.00) and organizational dues of twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars due and payable on July 1, of the calendar year. Nonpayment of dues, after one year, shall cause a member to be dropped from membership in the association. Benefits of membership include

alerts via e-mail, access to the North Carolina Parenting Educator Credentialing system, and affiliation of a growing profession.



NCPEN Annual Membership Application

Please print:

Individual membership (\$10.00) OR Organizational Membership (\$25.00)

Name/Name of Organization: _____

Address _____

Employer _____

Phone Number (____) _____ Email _____

Number of parent educators in organization _____

Organizational website if applicable _____

Mail to:

NCPEN

c/o Catherine Anderson, Treasurer
DJJDP - CPSV 1803 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1803.

Make check or money order to:
North Carolina Parenting Education Network
Federal EIN 56-2223885

**NC
STATE**

New Masters Program Proposed

Parenting and Family Life Education are rapidly growing fields of research and practice. Parenting education is an emerging professional field, one that is in constant flux as it grows to accommodate the varying needs of families and their children.

To prepare professionals to work in this growing arena, The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at NC State University has proposed a Master's of Family Life & Parenting Education. It is proposed to be a jointly administered graduate program with the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. For additional information, see: www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs

For Upcoming Events please check the NCPEN website at: <http://www.ncpen.org>