

Research/Program Evaluation Protocol
NECF Centers – Parent Aide Model

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Through research and program evaluation, NECF centers can a) determine and show that services are effective; b) improve services as needed; c) better secure and maintain funding; and d) move the Parent Aide model to being “evidence based.” The following levels will help centers, both individually and collectively, assess their current research and program evaluation efforts, and take the next step towards a more thorough and rigorous level of research and program evaluation.

Assumptions:

- No evidence of risk of harm
- Measurement tools utilized are standardized, valid, and reliable.
- Service and administrative components specified in a policy and procedure for manual, and implemented consistently.

Level	Research design	Measurement tool(s)	Electronic data collection
Level I	One-group posttest only	Client satisfaction survey	Increasing, and becoming more consistent and standardized ↓
Level II	One-group pretest/posttest	One measurement tool	
Level III		Two measurement tools	
Level IV	Quasi-experimental		
Level V	Experimental		

Level I One-Group Posttest only (minimum)

- Consistent use and recording of NECF case closure reasons
- Administer client satisfaction survey at conclusion of services
- Electronic records of minimal demographic data on all clients (see Table 1)
- Electronic records of minimal program delivery data on all clients (see Table 1)

Level II One-Group Pretest/Posttest A (all the above, plus...)

- Have a logic model specific to local program and context.
- Pilot* and adopt one measurement tool, consistent use at pretest and posttest
- Electronic records of: (see Table 1)
 - more in-depth demographic data on all clients
 - more in-depth program delivery data on all clients
 - measurement data on all clients
- Provide data analysis and report to center administration and staff every year - data considered during program decision-making

Level III One-Group Pretest/Posttest B (all the above, plus...)

- Pilot* and adopt a second measurement tool, consistent use at pretest and posttest
- Standardization of administration of measurement tools[†]
- Standardization of program delivery across workers and sites, if applicable[†]
- Electronic records of more in-depth program delivery data (see Table 1)
- Program evaluation activities reported at a symposium workshop and/or submitted for publication in a professional journal.

Level IV Quasi-Experimental with Pretest/Posttest (all the above, plus...)

- Midpoint tests of one of the measurement tools
- Electronic records of family risk and protective factors (see Table 1)

Identification and employment of a comparison group (non-random assignment) of clients who could receive a different intervention or be on a waiting list.

Process evaluation to demonstrate treatment integrity.

Follow-up at a minimum of 1 year following services using a measurement tool and/or with Child Protective Services records to measure recidivism.

Results of research/program evaluation activities published in a peer-reviewed professional journal.

Level V Experimental with Pretest/Posttest (all the above, plus...)

Random assignment of clients to a treatment and control group. Clients in control group could receive a different intervention.

* give tool at pretest to 5 clients, evaluate usefulness of tool from perspective of clients, workers, and results

† delivered/administered in same manner, across all workers and clients; documented procedures

Table 1 ELECTRONIC RECORD-KEEPING

LEVEL	family	DEMOGRAPHICS			PARENT AIDE SERVICES	MEASUREMENTS
		parent #1	parent #2	children		
Level I	ID# zipcode	dob gender marital status race		#	date referred date of INA date closed close reason	client satisfaction
Level II	type of abuse substantiation of abuse	educ employed rel to child	dob gender marital status race educ employed rel to child	dob gender race	referral source # of home visits	Tool #1: pretest, posttest
Level III	CPS history religious			physical health mental health disability	other services provided # of referrals # of contacts	Tool #2: pretest, posttest
Levels IV & V	financial assistance	physical health mental health dv substance abuse disability	physical health mental health dv substance abuse disability		topics covered in home visits	Tool #1: midtest