The Implementation of the Protective Factor Survey (PFS) in a Quality Early Learning Program: A Strengthening Families Approach
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Vision: Educational Justice

Over **100,000 children** better prepared for school and life

Scored **higher** than the national average

Despite their at-risk backgrounds
LAUP Impact Since 2005

Figure 2: LAUP Accomplishments At-a-Glance

- 105,000 children have become better prepared for kindergarten and beyond
- 640 preschools have received quality enhancements and coaching from LAUP
- 3,000 classroom quality ratings
- 4,100+ teachers have enrolled in LAUP workforce development programs
- $136.9M leveraged for children and families, building on First 5 LA’s initial investment
- 2,000+ Parent Ambassadors better prepared to actively engage as preschool advocates for their children and community
- 15+ pieces of early education legislation and policy influenced by LAUP
- 40+ strategic partnerships for Preschool Nation, a national initiative for universal access to high-quality preschool
Participants will be able to:

- **Identify and analyze** the Protective Factor Survey (PFS) as a research based tool to improve and inform programs and strengthen families.

- **Evaluate the feasibility** of the Protective Factor Survey and lessons learned from the implementation.

- **Identify findings** of the PFS in the Child Signature Program.
Child Signature Program
CSP Background

- Increase quality in early learning for children 0-5
- Emerged from lessons learned from Power of Preschool and Educare
- Aligned with California Department of Education Curriculum
CSP Elements & Outcomes

Program Elements

Instructional Strategies and Teacher Child-Interactions

Social Emotional Development

Family Engagement and Support

Expected Outcomes

Access to quality early learning programs

Improve behavioral skills

Family advocacy/knowledge
Selection Criteria
Implementation
Strengthening Families Framework

The Strengthening Families Approach

- Benefits ALL families
- Builds on family strengths, buffers risk, and promotes better outcomes
- Can be implemented through small but significant changes in everyday actions
- Builds on and can become a part of existing programs, strategies, systems and community opportunities
- Is grounded in research, practice and implementation knowledge

Levers

- Community and multi-system leaders act to build sustainable infrastructure through key levers for change:
  - Parent Partnerships
  - Policy/Systems
  - Professional Development

Strategies

- Community programs and worker practice consistently:
  - Facilitate friendships and mutual support
  - Strengthen parenting
  - Respond to family crises
  - Link families to services and opportunities
  - Value and support parents
  - Further children’s social and emotional development
  - Observe and respond to early warning signs of abuse and neglect

Protective Factors

- Families and communities build protective factors that also promote positive outcomes:
  - Parental resilience
  - Social connections
  - Knowledge of parenting and child development
  - Concrete support in times of need
  - Social and emotional competence of children

Results

- Strengthened families
- Optimal child development
- Reduced child abuse & neglect

A New Vision

Families and communities, service systems and organizations:
- Focus on building protective and promotive factors to reduce risk and create optimal outcomes for all children, youth and families
- Recognize and support parents as decision-makers and leaders
- Value the culture and unique assets of each family
- Are mutually responsible for better outcomes for children, youth and families
Family Support Specialists (FSS) needed to identify concrete strengths of families and areas of need

- Family Partnership Agreement
- Partner agency recommendation
Background Information

- Designed by FRIENDS National Resource Center and University of Kansas for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Programs

- Initiated to help programs better assess changes in family protective factors

- Instrument developed with assistance of researchers, administrators, workers and experts
Purpose and Usage

- A snapshot of the families
- Change in protective factor
- Identify areas FSSs could focus on increasing individual family protective factors
- Provides feedback for continuous improvement and evaluation purposes
- Not intended for individual assessment, placement or diagnostic purposes
Protective Factor Survey:
Description

- 20 item tool
- Pre and Post Test
- Takes 10-15 minutes to complete
- Protective Factors in five areas
- Measure change in protective factors
- Explore relationship of PFS with other measures of risk factors for child maltreatment
- 7 point Likert Scale, sensitive to small amounts of change
- Field tested, discussions with parent focus groups
Implementation process

- Program Supervisor conducted trainings on how to introduce the tool to families
- Discussion of scoring system
- Data tracking system
- Provide examples and role play
- Administered by the Family Support Specialists 90 days after school started
Evaluation
Evaluation Design

Evaluation, data collection, and reporting more rigorous

Protective Factor
Survey  N=77

Pre-Test
Fall 2014

Post-Test
Spring 2015

- Intervention
  - Family Partnership Agreements
  - Workshops
  - Referrals
  - Case Management
Findings
### Paired Samples Statistics

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Paired T-Test Analysis

Protective Factor Survey - Parent Responses Before and After Intervention

- Nurturing and Attachment: 6.5
- Family Resiliency: 6.1
- Social Emotional Support: 6.1
- Child Development/Parenting: 5.9
- Concrete Support: 5.5

*Statistically significant at p < .05
Summary of Findings

- Families showed growth across all five areas, four areas showed statistical significance.
- Areas of statistical significance included:
  - concrete support
  - family functioning/resilience
  - child development/knowledge of parenting
  - Nurturing and attachment
Reflection
Lessons Learned

- Create positive rapport and trust with families before introducing tool
- Ongoing trainings and debriefs with the Family Support Specialists
- A data base system that tracks the PFS was essential for programmatic and evaluation purposes
1. How can you apply the PFS tool in your program?

2. What benefits do you think the PFS tool can provide to your program and to the families you serve?

3. What limitations do you think you might encounter when implementing/administering PFS? How can you overcome those limitations?
References

- http://www.cssp.org/about

- FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention
  www.friendsnrc.org
Celebrating 10 Years
Championing Quality Early Education