Lumin’s Guiding Principles

• Start young

• Involve parents

• Use Montessori principles
Parents as Teachers
Home Visiting Program

www.parentsasteachers.org

Australia
Canada
Germany
New Zealand
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States of America
Evidence-Based Practices

• Emphasize parenting and child development
• Engage parent and child together
• Directly support parent warmth, responsiveness, encouragement and conversation
• Collaborate with parents
• Involve other family members
• Build on family activities
Role of the Parent Educator

• Partnering

• Facilitating

• Reflecting
Cultural Competence

• Reflect on beliefs

• Identify personal culture

• Recognize the origins of knowledge and beliefs
Components of the Program

• Trained parent educator (1 week training)

• Monthly home visits (we do weekly at LBLCS)

• Child development information based on neuroscience

• Parent-child activity, home made toys, reading to the child

• Handouts (at two reading levels)

• Periodic developmental screening

• Liaison to community services (food bank, rent assistance, library, immunizations, etc.)
Components of a Home Visit

- Preparation: choose topic, prepare materials, review handouts
- Rapport-building, listen, discuss observations and concerns, offer referrals if needed
- Review last month’s material
- Introduce information for this month
- Model talking with child, interacting, reading
- Introduce parent-child activity, home made toy
- Explain information in handout
- Record-keeping
Weekly Home Visits
• Familiarize the parent educators with the Montessori philosophy and its implementation during home visits.

• Create common ground in our understanding of child development and the way we present information to parents.

• Create a clear and well defined protocol for home visits to be used by every parent educator.
Mentoring Program Includes . . .

- Observations in local toddler communities and parent/infant groups
- Assigned reading from *Understanding the Human Being* by Dr. Silvana Montanaro, with weekly group discussions of the Montessori philosophy
- Before-and-after home visit videos for self-evaluation
Syllabus for Mentoring Program (see handout)

Day 1: Video “In the Womb”
Discussion of Chapter 1, “Prenatal Life”

Day 2: Discussion of Chapter 2, “Separation and Attachment”
Explore PAT curriculum handouts and find the ones that support what we have learned so far

Day 3: Video “The Science of Babies”
Discussion of Chapter 3, “The Symbiotic Life of the First 6-8 Weeks”

Day 4: Discussion of Chapter 4, “The Father’s Presence”
Discussion: How can we encourage dads in our community to be more engaged?

Day 5: Video “Home Environment 0-5”
Discussion of Chapter 5, ‘The Meaning of Maternal Care”

Day 6: Discussion of Chapter 6, “Communication with the Child”
Montessori Home Visit
• Order, routine, freedom of choice, repetition
• Preparing materials
• Presenting materials
• Putting away materials
Day 7: Discussion of Chapter 7, “The Brain’s Potential and the Absorbent Mind”
Video “The Secret Life of the Brain”

Day 8: Discussion of Chapter 8, “Weaning”
Making Home Visit materials
• Chips in a can
• Gluing exercise
• Collage activity, etc.

Day 9: Discussion of Chapter 9, “The Development of Coordinated Movement”
Video “Edison’s Day”
Montessori Home Visit
• Planning a visit
  – Preparing a topic
  – Choosing activities relevant to the topic
  – Documenting

Day 10: Discussion of Chapter 10, “The Development of Language”
Video (35 min.) “Montessori, The Science Behind the Genius”
Practice preparing a visit

Day 11: Video (35 min.) “Montessori, The Science Behind the Genius”
Discussion of Chapter 11, “The Developmental Crises of the First Three Years”
The Spiritual Preparation of the Adult

Day 12: Video (35 min.) “Montessori, The Science Behind the Genius”
Discussion of Chapter 12, “Children’s Education and the Future of Humanity”
How do we share this information with our families?
Procedure for the Montessori Home Visit (see handout)

- Prepare topic, select materials
- Greet family
- Set up activities and work space
- Transition to work routine
- Invite the child to work
- Share information with mom
- Transition to end work routine
- End work time with child
- Confirm date and topic for next visit
- Say goodbye
Four Basic Montessori Concepts

• Predictable Routine
• Freedom of Choice
• Possibility of Repetition
• Beauty and Order
Toddler Visit Bag
Toddler Activity
Toddler Visit Set Up
Set Up in the Home
Using a Tray to Organize Materials
Freedom of Choice
Uninterrupted Work
Involving the Parent
Involving Siblings
Independence in Eating
Results

- Children/parents interested in following predictable routines
- Children choosing work independently and remaining engaged
- Parents engaged in participating
- Parents modified homes to permit children to work independently
- Parent educators more relaxed and effective
Fatherhood Program
National Fatherhood Initiative

www.fatherhood.org
www.fatherhood.org/free-resources
www.fatherhood.org/why-fatherhood-matters
Fatherhood Group Meeting

FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

- A father... teaches, supports, plays, listens, loves...
Lessons Learned at Bachman Lake

• Follow the community – listen and respect what you hear
• Collaborate with community partners
• Plan carefully – training is critical
• Nurture leadership within the community
• Go slowly – financial stability is essential for sustainability
• Assessment is needed for accountability
• Be open to opportunity
Above all . . .

Don’t be afraid to think big!

Be bold!
When a small group of key persons commits itself to the purpose and outcomes of a project, the power of their intention creates an energy field that attracts people, opportunities, and resources that make things happen.

Otto Scharmer
• 1978 - Lumin East Dallas Community School
• 1999 - Lumin Lindsley Park Community School
• 2009 - Lumin Bachman Lake Community School
• 2014 - Lumin Wesley Rankin Community School

*** 500 low income families ***