

## Teen Parent Program

Jurisdiction: Yukon

Contact: Pat Cassidy

Level: K - 12

Theme: Community Based Practices, Transitions and Linkages

### Description of Practice:

This program provides a supportive environment to assist young parents in completing high school. It teaches parenting skills, as well as healthy meal preparation, money management and effective job search techniques. Parents are engaged in learning while their children are provided with day care in the same building.

### Background:

Many young girls were leaving school and not completing their high school education due to pregnancy. In an attempt to keep these girls and their partners in school, while providing for their babies, the Teen Parent Centre was developed. A Society (community membership) was set up as a steering committee. A three way partnership was established between the School, Department of Education and the Department of Health and Social Services. Programming was established; a new building with daycare facilities, a kitchen and classrooms were constructed close to a local high school for program sharing and student integration.

How is the practice integrated with ongoing non-aboriginal programming?

This program is open to all young parents.

### Development:

Programming is very flexible. Individualized programs are available at the Centre as well as regular classes offered at the Secondary School. Students are back at the day care over lunch so that they can feed, care and spend quality time with their children. Students are offered the support services of community organizations, Healthy Babies and Healthy Families.

### Evidence:

Since its inception in 1990, 243 students have enrolled in this program. Thirty eight percent have since graduated. Students have been involved in acquiring parenting skills, agency support, cultural programming and career development opportunities.

### Adaptability:

Key lessons learned: Including food and transportation has been a critical component of this program. Curriculum and policies are kept flexible. Parents have an atmosphere that is supportive and caring, yet maintains academic standards in which to learn. Partnerships with the community are welcomed and many students have their first introduction to community resources through the program.

### Further information:

Please contact the Teen Parent Program at 867-667-3421