

Parenting Support

This component links to every other component in the document.

Recently more emphasis has been placed on prevention of problems such as child abuse, family violence and improvement of access to primary health care. Parenting support is an enabling intervention with the aim of achieving better health outcomes for children, families and communities.

Age(s) of child

For parents and caregivers, family and whānau of children birth to 5 years - information and anticipatory guidance should be provided in accordance with the Well Child/Tamariki Ora National Schedule and at other times in response to identified needs.

Purpose

- To promote parenting that positively impacts on the child and family
- To reduce disadvantage including child abuse
- To identify at-risk families so support and information can be enabled to enhance parenting strategies.

Personnel

All providers delivering the Well Child/Tamariki Ora National Schedule - this includes the Lead Maternity Carer (obstetrician, midwife or general practitioner), or Well Child Provider team.

Recommended procedure

- Provide care in a culturally appropriate manner
- Assess family's need for information and support at every assessment
- Document the extent of the need
- Plan care and incorporate family/whānau in decision-making
- Facilitate access to any services that the family/whānau requires
- Evaluate whether care and support is achieving stated goals
- Provide relevant information and anticipatory guidance to parents/caregivers
 - parenting courses available
 - parent support networks in the community
 - behaviour management strategies to parents/caregivers
- Document findings and health gains identified including in the *Well Child-Tamariki Ora Health Book*

- Plan care, with family involvement and their active participation
- Use appropriate referral pathway
- Facilitate access to specific support services as necessary.

Educational preparation needs to include:

- assessment and counselling skills
- behaviour management strategies
- an extensive and up to date knowledge of parenting support options available in the local community.

Resources

Written and other resources produced by the Ministry of Health, available from public health service providers and www.healthed.govt.nz; documentation system.

Rationale

Statistics support the view that some families are more vulnerable than others for potential life-threatening situations that can be supported with early and appropriate intervention.

Issues for resolution

Planning resources that are sufficient to meet all vulnerable families' needs for care and support, developing an information system for the child population.