

Strengthen Families by Investing in Home Visiting

The statewide home visiting workgroup, comprised of New York State **maternal, infant and early childhood home visiting** programs and advocates, has compiled a joint budget ask to better support children and families across New York State in the 2016-17 SFY budget.

Maintain \$26.8 million and invest an additional \$11.5 million in maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting to adequately fund a continuum of supports and services for families.

► Healthy Families New York (HFNY):

- **Maintain \$23.3 million** in funding.
- **Add \$4.5 million** in new funding to:
 - » restore \$3.5 million to 2008 funding levels. This funding will cover increased capacity at existing sites, workforce development and local level service enhancements (mental health, fatherhood, community coordination).
 - » \$700,000 to expand services in unserved areas (200 slots).
 - » \$300,000 to support a site not currently funded.

► Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP):

- **Maintain \$3.5 million** in funding.
- **Add \$2.5 million** to preserve current program sites as well as to support growth in new communities and/or expand existing teams.

► Parents as Teachers (PAT):

- **Invest \$3 million** in new funding to expand capacity to 1,000 families across the state.

► Parent-Child Home Program, Inc.:

- **Invest \$1.5 million** in new funding to expand capacity to 300 additional families across the state.



Home Visiting Makes a Difference



Parents as Teachers.

A story about Parents as Teachers (PAT)

“Having a baby is supposed to be the most joyful, exciting time in a mother’s life. But as I welcomed my second child – my beautiful son, Cayden – I felt like I was drowning.

Cayden had multiple rare health conditions that required appointments with neurologists, endocrinologists, developmental pediatricians, and others. I didn’t have anyone to help me cope with having a baby with such severe medical conditions while also raising another child on my own. I suffered from post-partum depression after Cayden’s birth. I felt so overwhelmed and alone.

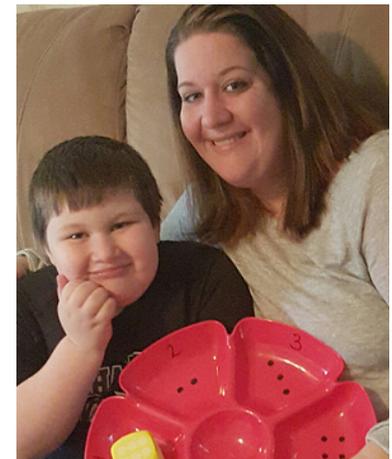
But it turned out I wasn’t alone. By enrolling in Parents as Teachers through Binghamton City School District, I began receiving visits from a trained parent educator, Mary Ellen, twice a month from Cayden’s birth until he turned six. As a mother, I felt empowered to have a professional I could ask questions of and get advice from; someone I could trust with questions about my children’s development and health.

I was very nervous about having a baby with such serious health issues and I wanted to make sure I understood how to assess his developmental growth. Mary Ellen nurtured my confidence by focusing on my strengths and what I was doing right – not critiquing what I was doing wrong – and I felt like a more successful parent.

Mary Ellen also connected me to community services throughout my son’s first six years. I knew just who to call for support and advice when Cayden required evaluations or had problems in school. Parents as Teachers inspired me to be my best. My parent educator didn’t give me the answers but led me through a thoughtful process of problem solving.

I can tell you firsthand that evidence-based home visiting is a very effective way to increase parent knowledge of their child’s development, provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues, and help get kids ready for school.

By empowering parents with strong parenting skills, we can ensure the next generation is prepared to be successful in school, career, and life – just like Cayden.”



Leslie Miller, RN, is in her last semester at Binghamton University to complete her Bachelor of Science in nursing. Leslie hopes to seek a career as a nurse with an emphasis in community health.