

A WORD FROM THE EXPERTS

Project TALC

Interviews with Developers of Evidence-Based Programs for Teen Pregnancy Prevention



This webinar was developed by Child Trends under contract #GS-10F-0030R for the Office of Adolescent Health; US Department of Health and Human Services as a technical assistance product for use with OAH grant programs.



Inclusion on the HHS Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review does not indicate HHS or OAH endorsement of a program model.



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Program goals :

- Less emotional distress
- Fewer behavior problems
- Less substance abuse
- Fewer & later babies

Target population:

- Low income
- Ethnic minorities
- Youth with ill parent

Key components:

- Social skills
- Set expectations re: course of disease
- Establish daily routines

Delivery methods:

- Small group
- Parent & youth together & alone

Previous evaluation results

■ Study #1

- ✓ Population: Youth in NYC
- ✓ Findings:
 - Parents have less drug use, depression, better parenting
 - Youth have fewer & later babies
 - Less substance use & emotional distress
 - More likely to finish school

■ Study #2

- ✓ Population: LA Latina & Black mothers with HIV & their adolescents
- ✓ Findings: Less depression over time

■ Study #3

- ✓ Population: South African pregnant youth, Thailand, China, Haiti, Zimbabwe
- ✓ Findings: Better infant growth at 1 year in South Africa
 - Other researchers have different findings in each country



■ Evaluated populations

- African American, Latina, & Caucasian
- Parents with HIV & their Adolescents
- Families in highly stressful conditions, including
 - Discrimination & stigma
 - Terminal diseases
 - Substance use histories
 - Low income



■ Target populations

- Families coping with a chronic illness (e.g. HIV)
- Adolescent children of parents affected by HIV

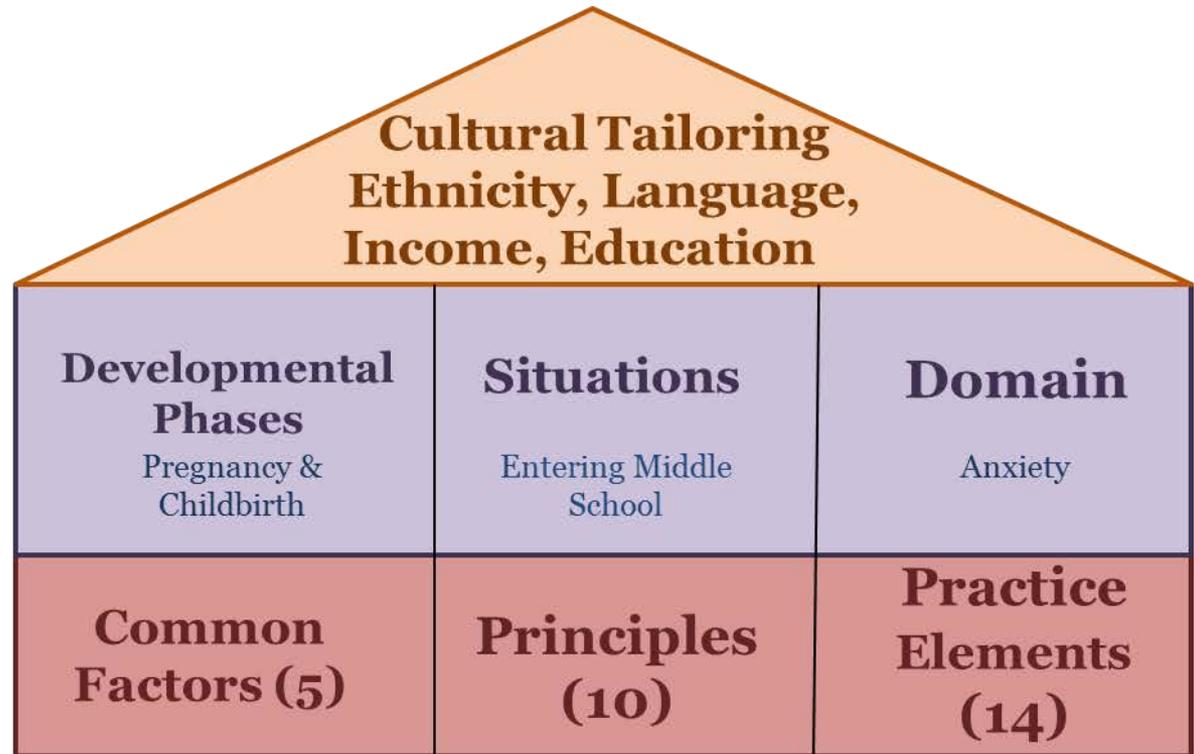
- Evaluated settings
 - Community settings
 - Hospitals & clinics
 - Home visits (Africa)
- Other settings
 - Home visits
 - Schools
 - Juvenile justice settings
- Always delivered by paraprofessionals
- Same principles, elements, & processes across countries & populations



**Local
Adaptation**

**Content
Tailoring**

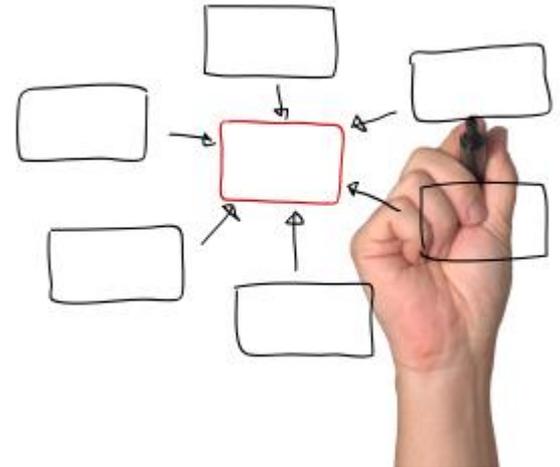
**Foundational
Skills**



Theory: Families change slowly, over time, in relationships, with small steps, with opportunities & rewards.

■ Potential adaptations

- Any institutional or community settings
 - Churches, NGO, clinics, hospitals,
- Cultural relevance
 - Highly relevant in cultures with any stigma towards illness
- Language
 - Local language
- Target population
 - Data is only available on adolescents
- Researchers have mounted in Thailand, China, Haiti, & Zimbabwe



Note: TPP grantees must obtain prior approval from OAH for any adaptations.

■ Staffing considerations

- Two paraprofessionals/group
- Training in cognitive behavioral change strategies (see earlier model)
- Good social skills, pragmatic problem solving ability, knowledge & ability to apply cognitive-behavioral theory



■ Training considerations

- Ongoing monitoring via mobile phone for data-informed supervision
- Allow drop-in groups & link to other services; coming once will lead to 75% attendance
- “Not in my backyard” due to potential stigma

■ Common challenges

- Paraprofessionals want to share knowledge, not apply problem solving so that family can implement change over time
- Iterative quality improvement is critical; need data informed supervision



■ Strategies for success

- Use tokens as a demand characteristic for praise
- Do not demand replication of scripts in a manual; allow personal training, but only after the concept is integrated into a change model
- Use sport & sports coaches to intervene with men

- Recent or planned curriculum revisions
 - We use the house model to teach foundational skills, the content of the disease related challenges, & allowing cultural tailoring
 - We are experimenting with a very different implementation mode for men: soccer games
 - Ability to apply practice elements and principles is basic to implementation
 - Paraprofessionals must understand & be able to apply cognitive-behavioral strategies to each person's life

- **HHS Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review**
 - <http://tppevidencereview.aspe.hhs.gov/>
- **Link to implementation report**
 - <http://tppevidencereview.aspe.hhs.gov/document.aspx?rid=3&sid=162&mid=1>
- **Link to developer's website**
 - <http://chipts.ucla.edu/projects/talc-nyc/>

Thank you!

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