



Foster Care and Family Services Mother/Baby Program - Pennsylvania

Description

KidsPeace has developed its Mother/Baby Program in response to county requests that young mothers in foster care be able to live with their infants without the need to take the infant into protective custody. Such programming allows the young mother the opportunity to learn parenting skills in a supervised environment deemed safe for her as well as for her child.

Program Objectives

The primary goal is to teach the young mother parenting and independent living skills within the structure and security of a foster care setting that also focuses on the mother's individual safety and needs. The program strives to meet the following objectives:

- Educate the mother about child development stages
- Have the mother fully participate in the care and nurturing of her infant including feeding, diapering, bathing, comforting and maintaining a safe environment
- Teach the mother to take responsibility for her child's laundry, food preparation, supervision and maintaining a safe, clean environment
- Ensure there is adequate infant supervision to allow the mother to complete her education
- Supervise the mother in making and attending all necessary medical appointments for her child
- Allow the mother to maintain an educational/vocational/social life that includes reasonable breaks from the responsibilities of caring for her infant
- Ensure the mother complies with applicable individual and family service plans.

Population Served/Criteria for Acceptance

The Mother/Baby Program is designed for young mothers in need of foster care placement. The mothers have an infant or toddler who is not in the custody of child protective services. Prior to acceptance into the program, KidsPeace will assess whether the mother's history indicates that she can safely be maintained in a community setting. The mother must be willing to complete her education either by traditional school attendance or through pursuit of a GED. When there is a history that indicates the mother is a danger to her infant, the Mother/Baby Program is inappropriate. In such instances, either the mother and/or her infant may be acceptable clients in other KidsPeace FCCP categories of care.

When referred prior to delivering their children, pregnant teens will be placed in foster homes able and willing to allow the post-delivery return of the teen mother and her infant. Prior to delivering her child, the pregnant teen will be placed in the category of care most appropriate to her own needs (categories of care are outlined in the KidsPeace contract). Mothers with more than one child will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Foster parents are expected to demonstrate competency to instruct the young mother in the care and nurturing of the infant. They must provide a smoke-free environment with sufficient space, and must be available to provide supervision for the infant in the absence of the young mother.

Services

All services provided will be consistent with goals and objectives identified on the mother's individual and family service plans. Case management services and documentation of services will be consistent with those routinely provided in any KidsPeace foster care placement. Documentation related to the infant will be contained within normal documents completed for the mother.

The KidsPeace foster family and FCCP caseworker have the same responsibility toward the safety and well being of this child as for any KidsPeace client.

For additional information or to make a referral for FCCP services in Pennsylvania, please contact: one of our local offices or KidsPeace National Centers Administrative Offices, 480 Pierce Street, Suite 320, New Bridge Center, Kingston, PA 18704 • 800-727-4482 • admissions@kidspeace.org • www.fostercare.com