

Margaret Maher



Families Involvement in Education

Evidence based services



Archways

- Supporting the mainstream delivery of evidence-based programme for children and teenagers with emotional and behavioural difficulties
- Programmes are Incredible Years and Functional Family Therapy
- Archways delivered programmes to 265 families since January 2007 - most are “hard to reach”
- Who is or what is “hard to reach”?

Who are the “hard to reach”?

- There is lack of clarity about this term
- The term “hard to reach” can be stigmatising
- reflect our prejudices and fears



“Hard to reach” = Hard to work with and hard work for us
can be viewed as service resistant, obstinate, uninformed,
disadvantaged, malfunctional, have-nots, overly serviced,
substance abusers, under educated, depressed

Negative view

Positive view

This can affect service user recruitment

In our experience Archways believe that people are not “hard to reach” just more expensive to reach in terms of



Lack of parental involvement

- Archways accept that some parents do not engage with school services
- Archways believe that this does not mean a lack of interest in their child's health and well-being
- Err on the side of caution be persistent, be positive, don't make assumptions, life can be complicated

Incredible Years and Parental Engagement

- The Incredible Years takes a holistic approach to child development
- Parents and teachers and children learn similar strategies to reduce behaviour difficulties and promote social competencies in the child
- This consistency reduces aberrant behaviours in both home and school

Strategies used

- Provide regular and positive contact with parents
 - Informal gate chats, telephone calls, notes in journals, postcards sent home, text messages, email
 - Make parents feel invited, treat them like valued customers
 - Ascertain their ideas about their children through parent child interest surveys and functional assessments
 - Run parent groups at school
 - Use mixed groups
 - Develop parent volunteer programme
 - Use parents to act as advocates for the school
 - Fund fun parental activities
 - Be flexible
 - Make parents feel invited



It works

- 265 families later - these strategies work
- Higher levels of home school engagement
- Reduces behaviour problems
- Happier families
- Happier teachers

Thanks for listening

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