



Our Programs

Erie Family Center strengthens families and promotes the well-being of children through prevention, intervention and education.

Being a parent is the most important, and sometimes, the hardest job you will ever have. At the Erie Family Center, we believe that parents are their child's first and most important teachers! **All our programs** are offered by skilled staff, either in the comfort of your own home or at our family-friendly center. To enroll in any of our programs, please visit us online at ErieFamilyCenter.org or call 814-520-8214 ext. 107.

HOME VISITATION SERVICES

Parents as Teachers (PAT)

PAT is a strong evidence-based, home-visiting model that provides parent education and support to families, especially those in challenging situations. PAT certified professional parent educators bring the program to families with an emphasis on parent-child interaction, development-centered parenting, and family well-being. Our PAT program is available from pregnancy until the child enters kindergarten, usually at age 5. By focusing on the early years, PAT helps parents understand what to expect during each stage of the child's development.

Parent Only Events: Giving parents and caregivers a break is what this program is about! Wholesome, enriching activities are planned to allow "time out" from children and to promote positive growth – as individuals and as parents.

Family Fun Activities: We also know that a healthy family finds time to play together! That's why we plan seasonal family activities such as summer picnics and holiday celebrations along with PAT Family Group Connections throughout the year.

Fostering Families

The Fostering Families program utilizes a collaborative approach integrating the Parents as Teachers curriculum, which aids in supporting a strong parent child interaction within the visit. We take a holistic approach to strengthening families through our evidence-based early childhood home visiting model. We provide services to prenatal women and families with children from birth through kindergarten entry. The Fostering Families program is designed specifically for families involved in the Office of Children and Youth with children currently placed in Foster/Kinship care. The Fostering Families program works to provide a cohesive network of supports for both Office of Children Youth involved Parents and Foster/Kinship care families.

PARENTING SKILLS

The Incredible Years (IY) - Community

Incredible Years is designed to promote emotional and social competence. This advanced parenting program is utilized to prevent, reduce, and treat aggression and emotional problems in young children ages 0-12 years old including children in the Autism Spectrum. By using prevention techniques taught in IY the chances of later developing delinquent behaviors is reduced. It consists of a two-hour session once a week for up to fourteen (14) weeks. In these sessions, trained facilitators use videos to encourage group discussion, sharing of ideas and promote problem solving.

1-2-3 Magic

A Parent education program dedicated to help parents build strong, positive relationships with their children and overcome the stress that can take the fun out of parenting. The program offers easy-to learn parenting solutions that are research based and proven effective for age groups from toddlers through Adolescents.

Motherhood Support Initiative (MSI)

This is a 12-week safe and supportive group for women to aid in fully understanding their importance as a mother in the lives of their children. With the help of a qualified group facilitator, women receive assistance to improve family management and parenting skills.

Promoting Responsible Fatherhood (PRF)

This is a 12-week safe and supportive group for men to aid in fully understanding their importance as a father in the lives of their children. This program is designed and dedicated to support, counsel, educate, advocate, and challenge fathers to become a strong, positive force within their families.

PLANS FOR SAFE CARE

If your baby has been diagnosed with a medical or developmental concern as the result of a medication or substance (legal or otherwise), the PA Department of Human Services requires a Plan for Safe Care be developed to be followed until the baby's first birthday. This plan is developed in collaboration with yourself and numerous support programs in Erie County, which can offer treatment and recovery support, breastfeeding support, parenting support, family planning and birth control, and more. In fact, the program can assist with the medical needs of yourself or your baby, housing and utilities, transportation, and even current legal issues. If you are struggling in some way or have general concerns about your child's first year, a Plan for Safe Care provides a safe start for you and your baby.

DIAPER DEPOT

The Diaper Depot is helping end the diaper needs in Erie County. We are here to help you provide the very best for your children at no cost to anyone. The Erie Family Center has diaper distributions twice a month here at the Family Center as well as other multiple sites throughout Erie County. Our registration process is simple and can be done on our website, the Diaper Depot is open to anyone regardless of income or location. Visit us at www.eriefamilycenter.org



GUARDIANSHIP

The need for Guardianship for a senior citizen arises once it is determined that a senior is now unable to care for themselves and/or their property.

Often, an incident occurs that moves a family member, health care professional, social worker, or some other concerned person to initiate guardianship proceedings.

There may be a concern that an individual is: being financially exploited (or is about to be exploited), unable to care for themselves, cannot perform the activities of daily life without assistance.

Typically, an evidentiary hearing will determine whether the person is incapacitated. If incapacity is determined, the next step is finding whether a guardian is needed. If so, then a guardian will be appointed and given the legal authority to care for the incapacitated person's personal and/or property interests, as well as the duty to act in that person's best interests. The guardian will be required to account for expenses and time spent caring for the needs of the person in their care.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Co-parenting Counseling

For families experiencing separations or divorce. Co-parenting counseling allows parents the opportunity to share in the needs and interests of their children. The cost for this service is \$80/hr. and spaces are available.

OTHER INFORMATION

Childcare and Transportation are available services to support families while they participate in our family center activities. Reservations are required in advance by calling 814-520-8214.

Erie Family Center services are available to families in all areas of Erie County. All programs are free and most do not have eligibility requirements. Bilingual staff is available for Spanish-speaking families and parent-education courses are conducted in the Spanish language.

Learn more at
ErieFamilyCenter.org
or call 814-520-8214 for more information
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