

Strengthening Families Self-Assessment Team Findings at the LP RC

Core Meanings of the Center for the Study of Social Policy's Protective Factors

1. Parental Resilience

Managing stress and functioning well when faced with challenges, adversity, and trauma.¹



2. Social Connections

Positive relationships that provide emotional, informational, and spiritual support.¹



3. Concrete Support in Times of Need

Access to concrete support and services that address a family's needs and help minimize stress caused by challenges.¹



4. Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Understanding child development and parenting strategies that support physical, cognitive, language, social, and emotional development.¹



5. Social and Emotional Competence of Children

Family and child interactions that help children develop the ability to communicate clearly, recognize and regulate their emotions, and establish and maintain relationships.¹



Examples of the Protective Factors in Action at the Library Partnership Resource Center (LP RC).

LP RC staff are welcoming, respectful, and strength-based when assisting families experiencing a variety of crises and stresses. Patrons note that staff “almost always say something positive,” are “gentle and listen,” and are “patient and try to support”.

Programs at the LP RC allow space and time for informal socializing and networking. Team members shared that the “feel of the place is welcoming” and LP RC is seen as “a warm place to be.” Community events like holiday parties, and regular concrete support events like Clothing Closet and Food Distribution all serve as opportunities for parents to connect.

The LP RC has a well-established reputation as a valued community resource that provides supports in a non-stigmatizing and helpful manner. The LP RC is effective in linking their patrons to other resources, advocating for patrons, coordinating with partner agencies, and following-up to see that the family's needs have been met.

Supporting parents with parenting and child development is a focus and priority of the LP RC. Staff model appropriate interactions, create a comfortable environment for parents and their children, and make referrals for parenting support based on individual family needs.

When developing goals for youth in the Strong Kids Afterschool Program, staff listen to parents' observations and model how to actively involve their child in the discussion. Staff help students recognize their strengths and achievements and encourage them to identify their own goals and ideas for improvement.

¹ Center for the Study of Social Policy. (2015). Core Meanings of the Strengthening Families Protective Factors.

ROADMAP TO THE FUTURE

Putting into practice what we learned from the Strengthening Families Self-Assessment (SFSA) Tool



The purpose of the SFSA process was to evaluate Resource Center practices, programs, and services based on the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework. The Library Partnership Resource Center (LP RC) SFSA team consisted of 2 direct service staff members, 5 community collaborators from partner organizations, and 4 community ambassadors who utilize services and programs at the LP RC. Team members completed a survey with questions related to the implementation of each protective factor at the LP RC. The SFSA team came together for critical discussion to assess each item and develop action items to address any gaps in programs, services, or Resource Center practices.

KEY THEMES OF THE LP RC'S ACTION ITEMS



SUPPORT PARENT CONNECTIONS

With...

- Peer mentors.
- Parents with similar experiences.
- Parent-led groups.



BUILD CULTURAL CAPACITY

Through...

- Staff trainings.
- Access to translation.
- Diverse representation.



INCREASE PARENT ENGAGEMENT

By...

- Improving messaging to the community.
- Removing barriers to program attendance.
- Engaging with fathers/male caregivers.



AMPLIFY COMMUNITY MEMBER VOICES

In...

- Advisory council leadership.
- Conferences and policy meetings.
- Providing feedback on LP RC services.

Moving forward...

Over the next year and a half, staff at the Library Partnership Resource Center will work to implement many of the proposed action items to enhance services and programs for local children and families.

