

"Parent for the Future" 2010 Launch

Positive Parenting- In 2010 the Marion County Children and Families Commission launched *Parent for the Future*, a grassroots initiative to put more resources and supports on the airwaves and in our communities for parents and families. The initiative is increasing opportunities for our community to learn more about sound communication and family management skills.

Several hundred people attended the Children and Families Commission's first *Parent for the Future* conference, "Talk So Kids (& Teens) Will Listen and Listen So They Will Talk" in October.



Why It Matters

- ◆ The more positive experiences a child has, the more likely they will be successful in school and life and the less likely they are to engage in risky behavior.
- ◆ Parents, teachers and adults who care for children need support in communicating effectively with children, understanding adolescent brain development, and strengthening skills for effective and positive family management.
- ◆ Raising successful kids takes more than just a single family or school; it takes an entire community coming together to support youth.

What We Know:



- ◆ Both common sense and strong research evidence show that parental influence affects the development of children. Children whose parents show warmth and positive responses have better social-emotional, language, and learning outcomes and more positive behavior and academic success. Less optimal parenting has been found to predict higher rates of behavior problems and lower school achievement.
- ◆ Children with fewer adverse childhood experiences are healthier adults.



- ◆ Family and parental circumstances impact parents' ability to provide sensitive caregiving. Financial hardship increases stress and depression. Maternal depression, anxiety and lack of social support can contribute to less responsive caregiving and weaker support for children's learning and development.
- ◆ Parent education has been shown to be an effective, low-cost way to enhance parenting, and improve outcomes for children and youth.

