

Allegheny County Principles of Family Support

Family Support programs are governed, designed and improved by participants and community members.

Family Support is relationship-based, fostering respectful partnerships between and among parents, peers and professionals.

Family Support is strengths-based, building on existing individual, family and community cultural abilities and vitalities.

Family Support services are designed by and for participants to meet their priorities and are collaborative among agencies to insure easy access and use.

Family Support reflects, respects and enhances the cultures of the neighborhood through the staff it hires, the materials and activities it provides.

Family Support services are enhanced through program evaluations that affect the Family Support Principles and that contribute to continuous program improvement.

Family Support services are based in the community, serve the entire family without eligibility requirements and are voluntary.

AIU'S MISSION

We are an educational community that advocates and advances equitable opportunities for every learner.

Highlands Family Center Staff

Senior Site Director

Jeannie Dennis

Service Coordinator

Gina Bishop

Family Development Specialists

Christina Evans

Erica Kemp

Missy Laughery*

Lisa Seman

*Drug and Alcohol Case Manager

TEAR Coordinator

Lorrayne Plance

TEAR Advocates

Crystal Castiglione

Mikalyn Wheeler

Receptionist

Ashley Walters

Van Driver

Chris Karadeema



Highlands Family Center

415 E. 4th Ave., Suite 12

Tarentum, PA 15084

(Located in Suites on Fourth Professional Center)

Phone: 724-224-9006

Hours: Mon., Noon – 8 p.m. | Tues.-Fri., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Family and Community Education Services



HIGHLANDS
FAMILY CENTER



What is the Highlands Family Center?

Our family center can help you give your child the best possible start to their life. We provide services for families focusing on healthy child development, effective parenting, preservation of the family unit and economic self-sufficiency. We serve families in the Highlands school district and neighboring school districts.

Who is eligible?

- Families with children from birth to 18-years-old are eligible for services
- There are no income guidelines
- Our services are free



What are our core services?

- **Home visits** – Certified home visitors provide in home early childhood educational visits twice per month for pregnant women and families with children ages 0-5 years old. Parents/ caregivers are required to be present and interactive during all home visits.
- **Customized early childhood lessons** – Certified home visitors use the Parents As Teachers evidence based curriculum.
- **Meeting families where they are** – Providing one on one support, referrals and goal setting.
- **Milestone and skill development** – The Ages & Stages Child development screening tool is used to track each child's development. Referrals to early intervention are given if needed.
- **ASQ screening** – Results are shared with parents who are given referrals for early intervention, if needed.

Activities and Events for Families

The Highlands Family Center provides a variety of activities for all families. We believe in programming that lifts up families while fulfilling our mission of providing them education and opportunities. Our programming covers several areas, and parents/caregivers must actively participate in programming with their child.

FAMILY EVENTS

- **Parent/Child Play Groups** that focus on socialization, learning and having fun
- **Family Fun Nights** where families can enjoy a meal and an evening together
- **Birthday Parties** provided by Beverly's Birthdays
- **Free field trips** to locations including Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium, Idlewild & SoakZone and the Carnegie Science Center

PARENT-FOCUSED ACTIVITIES

- **Parent Cafés** which give parents and caregivers the space to discuss the joys and challenges of raising a family and learn protective factors so families can be strong and resilient.
- **Parent Groups** which are interactive groups covering topics including budgeting, child development, cooking and health
- **Me Time**, where adults can relax and practice self-care activities such as meditation and crafting
- **ACT Parenting Class**, an eight-week course where parents and caregivers of young children learn positive parenting skills to create safe, stable, healthy and nurturing environments

Note: *Childcare is only provided for adult groups. Most groups last one to two hours.*

Additional Services

Donations from 412 Food Rescue

Food Pantry

Diaper Bank

Formula Bank

Healing From Addiction
Families in Recovery Program

Housing Assistance

Referrals

TEAR (Trauma Education and Response)

Transportation



For more information about our Family Centers, please contact:

Lori Vollman, Program Director
Family and Community Education Services/
Adult Education and Workforce Development
412-394-5962.

Family Centers are funded through the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education and the Allegheny County Department of Human Services.

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