



IMPACT NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022



EARLY INTERVENTION: ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE WHOLE FAMILY

Story by Amber Hewston, Doctor of Physical Therapy, a team member of the Children's Integrated Services Early Intervention (CIS:EI) team at The Family Place

CIS Early Intervention is about more than supporting a young child's healthy development, but rather offering tools and resources that support the whole family.

Consider a family with 3 young children who, during COVID, faced disruption to employment, school and early intervention access, and challenges with meeting their basic needs including housing, food, and baby care supplies. Historical difficulties with domestic violence and mental health also resurfaced and added to the already difficult situation.

The CIS Early Intervention team, in coordination with other Family Place supports and community partners, helped this family with more than just strategies for child development. The CIS:EI team made sure the family were enrolled in programs for housing and employment supplement programs. This included helping them overcome barriers to completing application forms and gathering required documentation. The Family Place delivered food boxes and diapers and helped identify the most local food banks with varying hours and locations they could access for continued provisions. The team worked with the local school district and state programs to improve the family's internet connection and access to technology to allow them to participate in home schooling and Early Intervention services. Our service coordinator was a listening ear and an outlet for the worries of the mother, encouraging her to connect with WISE and other local mental health supports that could help her to work through past trauma and current challenges.

Through doing these things, the CIS:EI team helped ensure basic needs were met, allowing the family to use their strengths to focus on their children's development.



ON TRACK TO GRADUATE

Jessica, a teenage participant in our Families Learning Together (FLT) program, gave birth in the fall and took several weeks at home to be with her baby. While teen parenthood often leads to delayed educational attainment (nationally, fewer than half of young women who become parents as teens complete high school by the age of 22), this has not been the case for Jessica.

With her newborn in the care of The Family Place's Early Care and Education program—a short walk across campus from FLT's academic spaces—Jessica was able to return to her studies. With the help of Katie Price, an educator from the Montshire Museum of Science who provides science and math instruction to participants in the FLT program through a new partnership between The Family Place and the Museum, Jessica designed an independent project that would help her earn a math credit she needed for graduation. The project focused on the growth and development of her new baby: charting eating, sleeping and elimination. Teachers in the Early Care and Education program supported and mentored Jessica as she grew in her understanding of her child's patterns.

FLT's individualized program supported Jessica to move forward academically in a way that was truly relevant to her life, building parenting skills in the process. She is on track to graduate in June!



SINCE JANUARY, THE FAMILY PLACE HAS...



CONDUCTED **527** MENTAL HEALTH SESSIONS

We doubled our capacity to support the mental health needs of children and families, with support from generous donors.



LOGGED **7,400** MILES TO MEET WITH FAMILIES IN THEIR HOMES



PROVIDED **2,540** MEALS AND **2,280** SNACKS TO FAMILIES WITHIN OUR PROGRAMS



DISTRIBUTED **38,543** DIAPERS

through two TFP-hosted events to non-profit organizations through a diaper donation from the Junior League of Champlain Valley Diaper Bank.



HOSTED **9** PLAYGROUP MEETINGS AND **14** "DAD GROUP" SUPPORT & EDUCATION SESSIONS

"The group was a great space to connect to other dads who share common parenting struggles. I came away feeling an increased connection with other dads and more aware of the resources available."



SUPPORTED **274** CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO ACCESS CHILDCARE

"It was extremely helpful since I have no experience with finding childcare and didn't know where to start."



THE FAMILY PLACE

delivers comprehensive programs designed to strengthen positive relationships, teach essential skills and promote enduring healthy growth for families with young children in the Upper Valley and surrounding communities.

LEARN MORE AT FAMILYPLACEVT.ORG

(802) 649-3268

INFO@THE-FAMILY-PLACE.ORG

STAY CONNECTED

Find us on social @FamilyPlaceVT

