



News from *Help Me Grow* National

National Center News

New Post from the *Help Me Grow* Blog by Paul Dworkin, M.D.

The Voice of the Family: Family Engagement Is More than Just Engaging Families

‘At the 2014 *Help Me Grow* National Forum, affiliates agreed that services, programs, and systems must be acceptable to parents and families, respect their cultural beliefs and practices, and address families’ needs and priorities. Yet we also agreed that we must expand our definition of family engagement. It is not enough for parents to be informed consumers of services. Instead, parents need to be leaders in the design and evaluation of services.’ [Read more](#)

Save the Date: *Help Me Grow* National Webinar

On August 26th, the *HMG* National Center will lead a webinar titled “Expanding our Definition of Family Engagement”. Agenda and registration link to follow!

[Help Me Grow Manual Now Online](#)

HMG National is thrilled to announce that the first edition of the *Help Me Grow* Manual is now available at the Affiliate Toolbox of www.helpmegrownational.org. The Affiliate Toolbox has been completely overhauled to match the organization of the Manual. Both projects intend to make it easier for affiliates to find the information and resources they need to replicate and grow a *Help Me Grow* system. We have also posted the July 15 informational webinar recording on how to navigate and use the Manual and website. Please check them out and let us know how they're working for you.

[HMG Connecticut Celebrates "Help Me Grow Campaign" to Support Developmental Screening](#)

On July 18, *Help Me Grow* Connecticut gathered 64 community volunteers and state early childhood leaders to celebrate the wildly successful *Help Me Grow* Campaign. This three-month long campaign involved nine Connecticut communities in an in-depth, multi-event outreach effort to promote the awareness and use of standard developmental screening tools to ensure at-risk children get the supports and services they need at the earliest point possible. More than 153 volunteers contributed to the campaign, which included 27 Community Cafes, 17 registration events, and 8 screening events.

As part of the effort, explains HMG CT marketing consultant Deborah Watson, 34 parents in the communities were trained to host Community Cafés. "It was a transformational experience," Watson says. "National trainers conducted the training in English and Spanish, which was so empowering for many of the parents. The training led to truly successful Community Cafes." A complete write-up of the *HMG* Campaign, with marketing materials and photos from the Campaign Celebration, will soon be posted at helpmegrownational.org.

[Help Me Grow Delaware Launches QT30DE.com](#)

HMG Delaware has launched a new website, QT30DE.com, providing fun activities that support a child's mental and physical development. QT 30 stands for parents spending 30 minutes of quality time every day with the children in their lives. "We want parents, caregivers, and health providers to take away the message that spending a few minutes with a child has positive outcomes for that child," says HMG Delaware program manager Pauline Gyan.

OT30DE.com features a guide for parents, including hundreds of 30-minute quality time activities for kids from birth to 8 years old. Many activities can be done at home. "Parents don't need to worry that they need to have a lot of time and resources in order to engage children," says Gyan. Following the launch and the dissemination of activity booklets, HMG Delaware will begin media promotion for the site.

[Vermont, New Jersey among Early Learning Challenge Grantees](#)

The [ZERO TO THREE Policy](#) Center recently released a new article on the Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge (ELC). [Meeting the Challenge: How the Newest Early Learning Challenge Grantees Can Meet the Needs of Infants and Toddlers](#) explores six strategies, from the newest ELC grantees including HMG affiliates

[WKKF Holds First-Ever White House Symposium on Family Engagement](#)

On July 31, the Kellogg Foundation held a White House Symposium on Transformative Family Engagement. The event brought together a small, distinguished group of administration officials, including U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, White House Domestic Policy Council Director Cecilia Muñoz and Deputy Assistant to the President for Education Roberto Rodríguez, along with philanthropic, research and other experts from the field, for a solutions-oriented discussion on how to achieve educational equity for children — particularly those from low-income families — through transformative family engagement. [Read more.](#)

[Aug. 12 Webinar: Engaging Families in the Assessment Process and Use of Data](#)

Cohosted by the early childhood research alliances at REL Northeast & Islands and [REL Southwest](#), this Bridge Event Webinar will examine the strategies that the Research Program Partnership at the University of Kansas employs to promote the use of education data at multiple levels, particularly families. The event will build participants' awareness of these strategies as well as provide opportunities for participants to engage with the presenters through structured Q&A sessions. The webinar will run on Tuesday, August 12, 3-4 p.m. ET. [Register here.](#)

[Call for Proposals: \\$25K Award to Foster Culture of Health](#)

The [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation \(RWJF\) 2015 Culture of Health Prize](#) is awarded annually to honor outstanding community efforts and partnerships that are helping people live healthier lives. Winning communities will each receive a \$25,000 cash prize and have their accomplishments celebrated and shared broadly with the goal of raising awareness and inspiring locally-driven change across the country. Applications are due September 17, 2014. [Learn more.](#)

[The 2014 KIDS COUNT Data Book](#)

The [KIDS COUNT Data Book](#) is an annual publication that assesses child well-being nationally and across the 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Using an index of 16 indicators, the 2014 report ranks states on overall child well-being and in four domains: (1) economic well-being, (2) education, (3) health, and (4) family and community. The report also examines trends in child well-being since 1990, the year of the first report. It highlights positive policies and practices that have improved child health and development and features stories from several states on advocacy efforts that have improved outcomes for kids and families. [Read more.](#)

Follow-Up from AAP's Symposium on Child Health, Resilience & Toxic Stress

This 2014 event brought together thought leaders, federal government officials, and medical professionals to discuss the science of toxic stress and early childhood adversity and forge consensus on the need for enhanced federal policies and funding to address this issue. [A wealth of Symposium materials are now available](#). These include the recorded webcast of the event, which can be searched and viewed by panel; the speaker's presentations and participants' list; press coverage of the event, including an excellent article from *The Atlantic* entitled "[How Supportive Parenting Protects the Brain](#)."

The Health and Well-Being of Children: A Portrait of States and the Nation 2011-2012

This [chartbook](#) presents indicators of the health and well-being of children, the supportive and risk factors in the family environment, and aspects of the neighborhood that may support or threaten families and children. The indicators present basic information on the health status and risk and protective factors experienced by children on the national level, and show the subpopulations who are at particular risk in each area, highlighting those differences that are statistically significant. This is followed by a presentation of key indicators on the state level for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. A technical appendix at the end of the book presents summary information about the survey methodology and sample in summary form. [Read more](#).

A Funder's Guide to Using Evidence of Program Effectiveness in Scale-Up Decisions

Michael Bangser, a member of the [Connecticut Voices for Children Board](#) of Directors with extensive experience in philanthropy, recently produced a guide for foundations and other funders on using evidence of program effectiveness in decisions to "scale up," i.e., to extend the benefits of cost-effective interventions to more people. The guide was published by MDRC, an education and social policy research organization dedicated to learning what works to improve programs and policies that affect the poor. [Read the guide](#).