

Did You Know?

Homebuilders is an intensive, in-home evidence-based practice (EBP) used by the Family Preservation Program (FPP) designed to strengthen families, keep children safe, prevent unnecessary out-of-home care (OOHC) placement, and safely reunify children and families using intensive reunification services.

Homebuilders **cannot** be used on moderate risk cases; however, Homebuilders **can** be used for all imminent risk cases.

Staff should select the Homebuilders EBP when the following are identified and will lead to an alternative placement:

- Deficient or poor parenting skills (control of children, ineffective and harsh discipline techniques, lack of supervision);
- Alcohol and substance use and abuse;
- Family conflict (family and domestic violence);
- Parental depression and/or emotion management; or
- Unsafe physical conditions of the family home.

The following are some of the positive outcomes associated with the Homebuilders intervention:

- Reduction in child abuse and neglect;
- Improvement in family functioning;
- Improvement in parenting skills (use of cognitive/behavioral discipline techniques, appropriate supervision and nutrition, increased routine and structure);
- Reduction in family conflict;
- Reduction in child behavior problems;
- Increased knowledge of skills to prevent OOHC placement or successfully reunify families; and
- Increased familial access to community supports.

A referral should be submitted as soon as possible for a child(ren) at imminent risk for removal.

- The caregiver must be informed of the risk of OOHC placement and the necessary commitment to 40 hours over 4-6 weeks.
- The SSW or FSOS must be available to discuss the referral with the FPP specialist or supervisor.

For Homebuilders to serve families referred for family reunification services, the child must start a trial home visit or be returned to the home within seven days of the referral. The familial situation should be complex (caregiver ambivalence, return against DCBS recommendation).

For consultation on Family Preservation Program referrals please contact:

Jennifer Thornhill, Prevention Branch Manager

Jennifer.Thornhill@ky.gov

502-564-7635 x3592

or

Charity Roberts, FPP Specialist

Charity.Roberts@ky.gov

502-564-4502 Ext 3596

