

Preface

Home visitation is a rapidly expanding approach to service delivery for families of infants and young children at risk for maltreatment or poor developmental support. There is an emerging global consensus that targeting children in their early years is key to mitigating the risks associated with early aggression and developmental delay. Home visitation programs are increasingly used in high-risk populations—typically facing multiple challenges related to poverty, mental illness, or isolation—to provide individualized services in family homes to help the parents provide appropriate care and developmental support to infants and young children. Research and program descriptions presented in this volume show how home visiting interventions can help mitigate parents' stress, guide parents toward more positive parenting interactions, and help families move out of poverty. Parents have benefited from home visitation programs that have helped them educate and care for their children and develop age-appropriate strategies for regulating their children's aggressive behavior.

The success of several empirically tested home visitation programs has prompted a recent expansion of funding for home visitation in the USA and in other countries worldwide. The research literature, however, is still quite limited regarding the specific strategies and components of home visitation. Several researchers working in this area were invited to share their evidence-informed expertise at the international seminar on *Home Visitation Programs: Preventing Violence and Promoting Healthy Early Child Development*, held in 2011, in São Paulo in Brazil. Based on their presentations, these experts have written the chapters in this volume.

The chapters summarize and report research on home visiting services as means of preventing violence and promoting early child development. The chapters guide the planning, implementation, and improvement of home visitation to provide culturally adaptable individualized infancy and early childhood services that address the roots of violence and promote optimal development. Part I, which is a two-part introduction, provides the rationale and challenges for home visitation in a multicultural international context. Part II includes chapters about research on home visitation evidence, design, development, evaluation, and quality improvement. Part III includes chapters on the implementation of specific home visitation programs in different settings around the world.

Each of the chapters in this book is based on either the implications of a particular research study (e.g., Korfmacher on training paraprofessional home visitors), a review of the research literature (e.g., Innocenti on innovation in evidence-based home visiting programs), or a detailed description of tested home visiting programs (e.g., Branker and colleagues on a tested home visiting program in the Caribbean). This collection of expertise in home visitation will be especially useful not only for program designers, administrators, and policy-makers who design and implement home visiting programs but also for those in multiple disciplines—social work, psychology, special education, and early childhood—who are the researchers and evaluators studying this approach to serve families with infants and young children. It is also our hope that that this book on home visitation research and implementation in the Americas provides a strong research-based foundation for students pursuing professional careers in which they will strive to reduce community and family violence by helping vulnerable families support the early development and resilience of their infants and young children.

Home Visitation Programs

Preventing Violence and Promoting Healthy Early Child
Development

Roggman, L.; Cardia, N. (Eds.)

2016, XVI, 232 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-17983-4