

ECHO FAMILY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The Family Enrichment Program (FEP) is a Prevention Initiative funded by the ISBE Early Childhood Block Grant. FEP provides prevention services to expecting parents and families with children from birth to age 3 who are at-risk of academic failure residing in the ECHO 17 member school districts. Research shows that high quality, comprehensive center-based programs can be especially effective in promoting healthy early development. The goal of FEP is to provide early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services to help families build a strong foundation for learning, to prepare children for later school success.

FEP provides parent education relating to the development and nurturing of infants and toddlers, and case management to coordinate referrals to existing services available through other agencies in the region. All FEP services are provided through the implementation of an individual family service plan. Services include ongoing developmental screenings, parenting workshops, parent support groups, monthly home visits, weekly developmental parent/child playgroups, newborn hospital visits, and monthly field trips. Additional services are available, including a toy and resource lending library, infant massage, transportation, and linkages to adult education programs.