



## Development Publications



**The Family Map Inventories were developed in multiple studies and a key publication describes the development by child age.**

### **Early Childhood Family Map**

Whiteside-Mansell, L., Bradley, R.H., Conners, N. A., & Bokony, P. A. (2007). The Family Map: Structured interview to identify risks and strengths in head start families. *NHSA Dialog: A Research-to-Practice Journal for the Early Intervention Field*, 10, 189-209.

A free PDF of the article can be obtained here: <https://journals.uncc.edu/dialog/article/viewFile/42/100>

The Family Map is a semi-structured interview developed to assess important aspects of the family and home environment associated with well-being in 3- to 5-year old children. The measure is designed so that it can be used during home visits with Head Start families. Accordingly, it was developed in collaboration with Head Start providers and families. The Family Map systematically identifies areas of concern and strength so that providers can design interventions to reduce risk factors (e.g., food insecurity, physical safety issues, family conflict, harsh parenting practices, parental depression) or enhance factors associated with healthy development (e.g., availability of learning materials in the home, good monitoring and supervision, or home safety). The areas assessed by the Family Map are targeted by Head Start performance standards. The Family Map has been successfully implemented in Head Start agencies and is also being adopted in non-Head Start early childcare settings.

### **Infants & Toddlers Family Map**

Whiteside-Mansell, L., Johnson, D., Bokony, P., McKelvey, L., Burrow, N., & Swindle, T. (2013). Using the Family Map: Supporting Family Engagement with Parents of Infants and Toddlers. Special Issue on Parent Involvement and Engagement in Head Start for *Dialog: The Research-to-Practice Journal for the Early Childhood Field*, 16 (1), 20-44.

A free PDF of the article can be obtained here: <https://journals.uncc.edu/dialog/article/view/42/100>

Engaging families of preschool children in partnerships with early childcare providers includes, among other activities, engaging in meaningful conversation, linking parents to needed services, and supporting parents as they capitalize on family protective factors. Early childhood programs struggle to implement systematic processes to support teachers in engaging families and documenting the interactions. This report summarizes the development and implementation of a tool designed to facilitate family engagement with childcare. The study targets a rural, multi-center agency serving Early Head Start families using an inventory called The Family Map. This report provides evidence of the feasibility of implementation, the reliability, and validity of the screening questions, and the range of risk and strengths identified in Early Head Start families served.

## Practitioner Use of the Infants & Toddler Family Map

McKelvey, L.M., Bokony, P., Johnson, D., Whiteside-Mansell, L., Burrow, N., & Swindle, T. (2013). Family Engagement: Establishing a System to Support the Parent-Teacher Partnership. The Special Issue on Parent Involvement/Engagement in Early Childhood Education for *NHSA Dialog: A Research-to-Practice Journal for the Early Intervention Field*, 16 (1), 171-175.

A free PDF of the article can be obtained here: <https://journals.uncc.edu/dialog/article/view/50/105>

The Family Map Inventories were developed to support programs in their efforts to engage parents and understanding family needs and strengths. The Family Map Inventories are supportive of the framework put forth by Office of Head Start's National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement (NCPFCE) and were developed with the Head Start performance standards as a guiding principle. This study provides evidence of the feasibility and usefulness of the Inventories use with parents of Infants and Toddlers. Parents and teachers were accepting of the Inventory. The Infant – Toddler Family Map Inventory appeared to provide an accurate assessment of the risks and strengths in the home and parenting environments of young children. The potential for use by educators is discussed.

### Coming Soon!

We are working on the next development paper that describes the use of the Family Map in the prenatal home environment.