

Mind in the Making: Seven Essential Skills Training Modules Multnomah County

Funded by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Multnomah County is one of three initial communities nationwide that will be piloting and implementing the newly developed Seven Essential Skills Training Modules. These modules are part of Mind in the Making (MITM), a learning campaign led by Ellen Galinsky of the Families and Work Institute (FWI) to disseminate information about the science of how young children (birth to eight) learn best.

Multnomah Mind in the Making is a part of Linkage, an initiative of the SUN Service System Division of Multnomah County Human Services that fosters early support and successful transitions in Community Schools. Our national partners in this effort are the Families and Work Institute and the Coalition for Community Schools at the Institute for Educational Leadership.

About the Training Modules

The Seven Essential Skills Training Modules are a set of 8 modules that comprise a total of 16 hours of training (2 hours each). The trainings draw on brain development research to inform practices that lead to better outcomes for children through the promotion of essential skills that take place in the prefrontal cortex of the brain. Each module covers one of the essential skills, and an introductory module provides a broad overview. Trainings provide participants the opportunity to reflect on their own experiences and practices, learn about what researchers have discovered about how children learn best, and discuss how to apply this research in their role as a parent or educator.

The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs

1. Focus and Self Control
2. Perspective Taking
3. Communicating
4. Making Connections
5. Critical Thinking
6. Taking on Challenges
7. Self-directed, Engaged Learning

Target Audience Groups

The Seven Essential Skills Training Modules are intended to reach parents, early childhood practitioners (e.g. home visitors, parent educators, pre-K/Head Start staff, child care providers), and elementary school administrators/staff (e.g. principals, counselors, teachers).

Implementation

Linkage will partner with community organizations, programs or groups that currently provide trainings, classes or workshops reaching at least one of the MITM target audience groups to deliver the Seven Essential Skills Modules. Each community partner will identify one or more skilled trainers to deliver the trainings. These trainers will participate in a 3-day Master Learning Facilitator Institute led by Ellen Galinsky in November 2011. Community partners will then pilot the training modules to gather participant and facilitator feedback which will be forwarded to FWI. Once the training modules are finalized based on input from all three communities, partners will offer a minimum number of training modules as part of their existing set of trainings over the next two years.

Multnomah Mind in the Making

Role of Community Partners

- Identify facilitator(s) within or closely tied with their organization, program, or group to be trained as a Master Learning Facilitator. Facilitators should have a strong adult education/training background. A background in early childhood development is preferred but not required.
- Participate in a free 3-day Master Learning Facilitator Institute November 14-16, 2011 in Portland. The Institute will be led by Ellen Galinsky, and identified facilitators will need to attend the entire training. Facilitators may be asked to complete some pre-training preparation (e.g. reading the book “Mind in the Making”).
- Pilot 1 of the training modules to gather participant and facilitator feedback by February 1, 2012.
- Offer the Seven Essential Skills Training Modules as part of their existing set of trainings. A certain number of modules (TBD depending on when the modules are finalized by FWI) should be offered by the end of June 2012, and the entire series of training modules should be offered each year for the next two years beyond that (2012/13 and 2013/14).
- Participate in evaluation efforts (e.g. participant surveys, facilitator interviews).
- Participate in meetings associated with implementation of Multnomah Mind in the Making. This may include up to two local meetings a year that bring together Master Learning Facilitators and/or other staff of the partner organizations. There may also be opportunities for in and out-of-state convenings, conference calls and webinars with national partners and people from other communities implementing Mind in the Making.
- Receive a nominal stipend the first year to support implementation of the training modules. The stipend is only guaranteed the first year, and stipends for years two and three of the project will be contingent on funding.
- Receive technical assistance, marketing and limited coordination support from Linkage and national partners.

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