



## Education, Outreach Ideas From Klamath Family Head Start

The Klamath (Ore.) Family Head Start Program is serving 39 families this year, 14 of which are Hispanic. The program uses *Make Parenting A Pleasure*® (*MPAP*) and its Spanish language cultural adaptation, *Haga de la Paternidad un Placer*®.

"We do a parenting class over the summer," says Vicky Taylor, the program's Lake County director. (Read more about "[dream box](#)" activities from that class.) "If we have particular topics that parents have concerns about, we follow the *MPAP* parenting class with a cluster training on that topic. We also distribute questionnaires at the beginning of the school year, asking what topics the parents want more information or training about."

"Sometimes," adds Marisa Villagrano, a teacher and home visitor, "we hear three or four families talking about the same thing." In this case, Marisa may schedule a brief session, rather than a months-long group. "We've found that parents will commit for one or two nights," Marisa says.

Vicky says, "When the parents want the information, they are real attentive and successful." Vicky and Marisa say that the parents who have already been in groups are their best advertisements for recruiting new parents.

Now, Vicky is putting together two additional parenting classes that are open to everyone in the community. One will be bilingual and aimed at current, past and future Head Start parents; the other will be delivered in English to any parenting community member. The local senior center will host the group and provide child care and refreshments. "I'm kind of excited to see if the community class is different," Vicky says.

Marisa does home visits using Reachables® family goal-setting cards. The exercises help families focus on attainable goals for themselves, their children and their family. "Parents ask, 'What are family goals?'" Vicky explains, "and we use an example like, 'It's agreeing to set out the children's clothes the night before so the family doesn't feel rushed in the morning'."

Learn more about Reachables, including the new Spanish-language cards, in an article in this newsletter.

Vicky and Marisa plan to continue using these successful service delivery strategies, curricula and materials to help families get the most from their Head Start experiences.