WHY PARENTING EDUCATION?

Positive Implications for Incarcerated Parents
OVERVIEW

1. Background & History
2. Research
3. Connections
4. New Directions
5. Conclusion
The growing number of children with an incarcerated parent represents one of the most significant *collateral consequences* of the record prison population in the U.S.

*The Sentencing Project, 2009*
In the United States, there are nearly **3 million** children with an incarcerated parent.

About half of children with an incarcerated parent are **less than 10 years old**.

1 in 28 children have an incarcerated parent.
In 2002, data from an Oregon inmate survey indicated that

20,000 CHILDREN

had a parent who was incarcerated in prison
Oregon ranked 7th in the nation in female prison population growth
A child whose parent is incarcerated often struggles with complicated emotions when trying to understand the situation:

- Trauma
- Stigma
- Shame
- Confusion
- Guilt
- Stress
- Separation Anxiety

Children and Families of the Incarcerated Fact Sheet
CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED ARE MORE LIKELY TO:

- Struggle with emotional and behavioral problems
- Perform poorly in school
- Be involved in state services
- Face economic hardship
- Experience family and economic instability

Children and Families of the Incarcerated Fact Sheet
WHAT CAN PARENTING EDUCATION DO TO HELP?

"Parent education programs may serve a vital role in helping to reduce the numerous negative consequences associated with parental incarceration and also build important skills and behaviors among incarcerated parents."

Parenting Education Resources

- Parenting Inside Out (PIO) Curriculum
- InsideOut Dad Curriculum
- Little Children, Big Challenges Incarceration Toolkit - Sesame Street
- Children of Incarcerated Parents Project - State of Oregon
- The National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated
Research shows that incarcerated parents benefit from parenting education.

- Improved confidence in parenting abilities
- Reduced feelings of isolation
- Increased connections and contact with children
Being a parent matters to me now

What I liked the most was learning about the development stages of children and what behavior to expect for the child's stage.

I have a better understanding about children's behavior patterns and learning stages.

I KNOW MORE TO BE A BETTER PARENT

It will help me better understand my child, which will make his life better in many ways.
How should we move forward given the tools/resources that we have through OPEC and the community?

What opportunities exist in your community for partnership between parenting education organizations and community corrections?

What funding sources exist in your community to support parenting education for families who have or are experiencing incarceration?

What next steps can you take together to better serve families in your community?
THANK YOU!

Brought to you by:
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