

CEHD Grant Application Form

Submit this application form by one of the following due dates along with your proposal. Applications must be received, at tate-center@wmich.edu, by 5:00 p.m. on August 15, November 15, March 15, and June 15.

Application					
Applicant Name:	Carla Adkison-Johnson				
Title:	Professor				
Department:	Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology				
Title of Proposal:	Parenting Support: The African American Child Discipline Project				
Amount Requested:	\$2000.00				
Dates of Project:	March 2015-June 2015				
Evaluation Guidelines					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
5	4	3	2	1	
The proposed research/creative activity is well conceived and organized.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5	4	3	2	1
The proposed work will increase the likelihood that the applicant will secure external funding in the future.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5	4	3	2	1
The methods and/or procedures are clearly stated and appropriate for the proposed activity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5	4	3	2	1
The plans for data analysis or evaluation critique are clearly stated and appropriate for the proposed activity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5	4	3	2	1
The costs for the proposed budget are clearly itemized and justified.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5	4	3	2	1
This project has the potential to advance the scholarly/creative reputation of WMU.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5	4	3	2	1

Parenting Support: The African American Child Discipline Project

Purpose

Parents from all backgrounds often grapple with child rearing issues. However, few parent education and/or support programs address the unique concerns of parents with adolescent children and even less focus on the parenting challenges of African American mothers and fathers who are currently experiencing behavioral problems with their early and late adolescent age children. As a result, current parent training programs may not provide opportunities for African American parents to discuss how best to respond to their adolescent child's misbehavior. A parenting program, such as the African American Child Discipline Project, that utilizes a collaborative and contextual approach to understanding and attending to African American mothers and fathers disciplinary concerns might better serve African American families with adolescent children.

The goal of this project is to field test a psycho-educational parenting group for African American mothers and fathers with adolescent children. This parenting group model was developed by Adkison-Johnson (pending acceptance) based on her research that focused on the disciplinary practices of African American parents (Bradley, 1998, 2000; Bradley 2002; Adkison-Bradley, 2011, 2014). Dr. Carla Adkison-Johnson (formerly Carla Adkison-Bradley) is a Professor and Licensed Professional Counselor in the CECP department. She has published extensively on the disciplinary patterns and practices of African American mothers and fathers. Dr. Adkison-Johnson has served as a child discipline expert witness in civil and criminal courts. She has over twenty years' experience in counseling African American parents and children. In 2010, Dr. Adkison-Johnson Bradley was a featured child-rearing expert on a Canadian PBS parenting show called "Your Voice", which focused on how parents should discipline their children.

The goal of this study/evaluation is to establish base line data regarding its effectiveness and impact on African American parents. Below is a description of the research project.

Background

Psycho-educational parenting group for African American parents with adolescent children

The disciplinary practices of African American parents have been highly critiqued by social scientists. A considerable number of comparative studies between White and African American parents have noted the prevailing use of physical punishment in African American homes. Consequently, when African American parents interface with human service workers they are often instructed that their disciplinary techniques are strict, antiquated, and change worthy. Little attention is given to identifying the parents' behavioral expectations or disciplinary concerns.

The African American child discipline project is a six week psycho-educational group designed to assist and support 10 African American parents with their child rearing concerns. Specifically, this group will inform African American parents of what is normal, necessary and functional in addressing the parenting needs of their adolescent children. The target population will be African American parents (African American men or women) who have adolescent children living in the home. This research/evaluation study will enable the program leader (Dr. Carla Adkison-Johnson) to obtain base line data regarding the effectiveness of this program with African American parents with adolescent children who are currently experiencing behavioral problems. The following are examples of topics and activities that will be addressed:

Topic: "What concerns Me the Most Is ..."

Culturally responsive parent support must begin by identifying how parents define discipline and what child behaviors are considered problematic. A video will be shown of an adolescent displaying inappropriate behavior. The facilitator would then ask group participants what would be appropriate behavior for the child and how they would handle the acting-out episode.

Topic : Do grandma's disciplinary techniques still work?

Social scientists have acknowledged that grandmothers play an significant role in the parenting of African American children. However, Hill (1999) found in her study of 525 African American parents that mothers and grandmothers did not always agree on child-rearing issues and conflicts often left mothers feeling that their authority was being undermined. Furthermore, several parents felt that they used less physical punishment and more communication than their own parents.

The following discussion questions will be used to encourage African American parents to reflect on their present and future disciplinary behaviors and goals:

1. Describe the disciplinary techniques you have tried with your adolescent child.

Which ones promoted behavioral change? Which ones did not?

2. How were you disciplined when you were a teenager? Are you currently using any of these methods with your own children? Which work? Which do not?

Plan of Work

The parenting group will be comprised of African American parents that I will recruit (via radio, email, letter correspondence) from the Kalamazoo County Family Court, Department of Human Services, local churches and agencies. The group facilitator (Dr. Carla Adkison-Johnson) will meet 1 ½ hours per week for six weeks with the parenting group. Each parent will be given a journal to record their activities in the group as well as disciplinary events that occur in their homes. Each parent will be given a \$25.00 cash each week to assist with transportation and child care. The parenting group will be held in the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology at Western Michigan University. The center is on the bus line and has day and evening hours. Two six week sessions will be held Spring semester (March- April, 2015) and Summer semester (May-June, 2015) which would involve a total of 20 parents. This pilot program will comply with the HSIRB (Human Subjects) requirements at Western Michigan University.

Method

Evaluation:

The evaluation of the Child Discipline Project will utilize a pre-/post test study design along with qualitative data tools such as journal logs kept by the parent to examine the effectiveness of the parenting project. Specifically, each parent will be asked to record two entries in their disciplinary journal each week for six weeks. Specifically, each participant will be asked to record two disciplinary situations they had with their adolescent child detailing the child's misbehavior, what the parent did to address the misbehavior (disciplinary method used) and the child's behavior after the discipline. Disciplinary episodes as described by the parents will be analyzed and based on actual incidents. Information will be coded using the Antecedent-Behavior Consequence (ABC) method (Kremer, Smith & Lawrence, 2010). Reliability of the coding will be obtained by selecting 20 % of the total disciplinary situations and have them coded by two independent reviewers. SPSS will be used to analyze the coded disciplinary journal data for each parent quantitatively. Spearman correlations will be carried out to test correlations between children's and parents' behaviors.

These research/evaluation methods are typically used in establishing a programs promise for a specified population. The goal of this study/evaluation is to determine the level of statistically significant positive change for participants

before and after parents complete the parenting group. Additionally, descriptive data regarding parental attendance and satisfaction with the program will also be reported. The evaluation will be conducted by Dr. Jeffrey Terpstra and his doctoral associates in The Department of Statistics at Western Michigan University.

Budget and Justification

(omitted)

Anticipated outcomes and plans for continuing research

My overall goal for seeking grant support is to ensure that I can obtain full and consistent participation from African American parents. This data is essential in establishing credible outcome data. I plan to apply for larger external grants in 2015 that will allow me to work collaboratively (using this model) with human service and mental health agencies.

References

- Adkison-Bradley, C. (2011). Seeing African Americans as competent parents: Implications for family counselors. *The Family Journal, 19*, 307-313.
- Adkison-Bradley, C., Terpstra, J. & Dormitorio, B. (2014). Child discipline in African American families: A study of patterns and context. *The Family Journal, 22*, 198-205.
- Adkison-Johnson, C. (accepted). Child discipline and African American parents with adolescent children: A psycho-educational approach to clinical mental health counseling. *Journal of Mental Health Counseling*.
- Bradley, C. (2002). Socioeconomic factors and child discipline. A study of African American families. *The Journal for the Professional Counselor, 17*, 13-22.
- Bradley, C. (2000). The disciplinary practices of African American fathers: A closer look. *Journal of African American Men, 5*, 43-61.

Bradley, C. (1998). Child rearing in African American Families: A study of disciplinary methods used by African American parents. *Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development, 26*, 273-281.

Hill, S. (1999). *African American children: Socialization and development in families*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.