



S. Fortuna Elem. & Fortuna Middle Schools Family Resources

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Mission Statement

Fortuna Elementary School District's Family Resource mission is to create and deliver an effective program and services that meet the needs of each of our families/students, Kindergarten through eighth grades. Our schools will be the center around which the student, teacher, parent and community join together to assist in the family needs while in a safe and nurturing environment. Our services and programs will guide each student towards reaching their potential for academic success, social/emotional and physical development while building self-worth.

Success Story

Two boys were having behavior difficulty in school and the community. The family was referred to the Resource Center. A home visit was made by the CAPIT visitor (Child Abuse Prevention Intervention Treatment). The parent had been using drugs and alcohol and there was Domestic Violence issues. The home visitor and the FRC coordinator worked to get the family into counseling. The home visitor worked with the mother to get into a 12 step program. The home visitor assisted the family in moving to a different house. The CAPIT visitor stayed in close contact with the family over a two year period. Various contacts with the police and confrontation with the school continued for a year and then the family started to connect to various resources in the community that helped them see that there are people who care about each one in the family. The boys started coming to school less angry, suspensions were zero, homework was being returned, calls to the police dropped, mother took over the role of being a mother making rules for the boys and then giving consequences, domestic violence issues were taken to court, mother set curfew for the boys, placed restrictions on which previous friends could come to the home or not. After two years the boys behavior has significantly subsided, the parent is clean and sober, a restraining order is in affect, the family comes to school functions together. This story is a success because the Family Resource Center with the CAPIT visitor did not give up on this family. The behavior of a student usually gives a clue to the home environment they come from!

Programs & Services

Fortuna Elementary School District's Family Resources is located on a school campus. It is our belief that children and their families will be more likely to engage in resources and services at the school site. Most parents feel safe and comfortable in the school environment, especially those schools that have the Family Resources on campus.

The FRC is in a building that accommodates the Department of Health and Human Services/Children Youth and Family Services. Each week a therapist comes to the school site to talk with the parent/s as an intake to referring the student to weekly counseling services on the school site during the school day. CYFS takes Medi-Cal, Healthy Families and Victim Witness insurances. CYFS is for the Level I families who may need case management. CYFS may refer the student to Changing Tides which is another counseling service that comes on campus weekly. CT counsels students that have Medi-cal insurance only. Three CT therapists come weekly to see families and students. Two of the therapists in the FRC speak Spanish. Our school is 50% Hispanic.

The FRC is fortunate enough to have a full time AmeriCorps/AFACTR. She works with families that are referred from Child Welfare Services. The Differential Response Referral from CWS requires a cold call to the parent from the AFACTR as to what the family feels they need and what resources they may want assistance with. She will transport the parents to appointments, help them fill out applications, work with various agencies to trouble shoot services not being given to the family, attend court hearings with the parent, translates etc. She coordinates the filling of 55 food backpacks for students who may not have food over the weekend. The students take the backpacks home on Fridays and bring the pack back on Mondays. This process is continued for the school year. Local Rotary clubs finance the cost of the food each year. During the holidays various service clubs, fire department and police department donate toys and food to needy families through the FRC.

The FRC Coordinator is a full time credentialed Counselor/Psychologist for the Fortuna Elementary School District. A portion of her salary is financed by the County's Department of Health and Human Services to coordinator the Family Resource Center.