PROGRAM EDUCATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS

A Parent Education and Support Program must include and demonstrate compliance with all of the following:

- *The primary purpose of the program must be <u>child abuse and neglect prevention</u>.*
- Use a set curriculum that is evidence/research-based and age appropriate (the Curriculum Guide may be viewed at www.ctf.alabama.gov).
- Offer opportunities for practice and modeling of appropriate parenting behavior and skills.
- Increase knowledge and skills in the area of child rearing, behavior management, child development and communication and demonstrated with outcome data.
- Offer social support, information and referrals to assist parents/caregivers.
- Deliver in an individual or group setting.
- Provide the required data for the Evaluation Team state-level program evaluation.
- Include the "Protective Factors" in all programming.
- Provide education on Shaken Baby (Abusive Head Trauma) Prevention and Safe Sleeping environments.

Types of Parent Education and Support Programs include, but are not limited to:

- Programs for pregnant or parenting teen mothers (may be implemented in classroom setting, hospital, etc.);
- Programs for adult and teen fathers and adolescent males;
- Programs for new parents (provides set curriculum on child development, parenting skills, and support systems); this type of program should provide follow-up contacts.
- Programs for parents of special needs children (provides support and education for parents' of children with special needs);
- Parenting program around specific need issues (programs that focus on specific age issues, such as parenting a teenager, parents going through divorce, etc.);
- Parenting programs that address at-risk youth ages 8 - 17 (Children First Programs);
- Programs that require a parent to attend parenting or coping skills classes that run in conjunction with programs provided to their children brought before the court (Children First Programs);
- Programs that provide early, comprehensive support for parents;
- Programs that increase family stability and promote the early development of parenting skills, especially in young parents and parents with very young children;
- Programs that improve family access to other formal and informal resources and opportunities for assistance available within communities;
- Programs that support the additional needs of families with children with disabilities through respite care and other services;
- Programs that offer short-term assistance in times of stress (e.g. resource libraries, support groups);
- Programs that promote the five protective factors.