

LAPEN Registry of Parenting Educators

The Louisiana Parenting Education Network (LAPEN) established a website (www.lapen.org) with a registry for parent educators throughout the state in 2009. This searchable database was created to facilitate communication and networking among parenting educators and to provide a means to identify and search for parenting educators statewide. It is also designed to link programs for better sharing of ideas and support, and to provide a means to identify parenting educators, including their location, training and areas of expertise. The registry contains professionals from a variety of fields, backgrounds and agencies. The information is obtained through self-reporting and has not been verified. Parenting educators are encouraged to join the registry and use the search feature as a resource for their work with families.

A review of the data reported by parenting educators throughout Louisiana was completed in July 2012. (See attachment). There were 240 parenting educators registered on the LAPEN website. The following information was reported by registrants:

- Parenting educators were from 71 different cities – highest numbers are in New Orleans (48), Baton Rouge (38), and Monroe (16).
- 93.5% are female, 49.2% are White and 42.4% are Black/African American. Other cultural/ethnic backgrounds included American Indian or Alaskan Natives (4.2%), Hispanic or Latino (1.3%), Multiracial (1.3%) and “other” (1.4%).
- 95.4% said English is their primary language (5 reported Spanish as the language primarily spoken in the home, and 3 reported French as their primary language).
- Highest Level of Education: Master’s Degree (53%); Bachelor’s Degree (24.3%); Associate Degree (12.6%); Doctorate Degree (5%); GED/High School Diploma (5%)
- Professional credentials/ Certifications or Licenses: Licensed Social Worker (25%); Teacher Certification (14.6%); Certified/Credentialed in a Specific Parenting Curriculum/Program (12.9%); others include Certified Child Development Associate (CDA, 6.7%), Early Childhood Intervention Specialist Certification (5%), Licensed Professional Counselor or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (5.0%); RN License (3.3%); there were only 6 Certified Family Life Educators, 3 Certified in Family and Consumer Sciences, and 2 Licensed/Certified Psychologists.
- 69% (160) employed full-time in parenting education; 9.5% (22) part-time; 7.8% (18) self-employed, and 5.6% (13) volunteers
- Primary Profession: Educator, including early childhood, elementary, secondary, college/university (67.5%); Parent Educator (39.6%); Mental Health (21.3%); Resource and Referral (10.4%); Consultant/Trainer (10.4%); 25% are with a Non-Profit Program and 24% with a Non-Profit Government Agency
- Years of experience: 1-3 years (35.8%); 11 or more years (32.9%); 4-10 years (31.2%)

- Varied Areas of experience: General Parenting (45.4%); African-American Families (43.3%); Child Development Age 1-5 (38.3%); Single Parent Families (37.5%); Child Behavior/Guidance (36.3%); Child Development Age 0-1 (33.3%); Adoptive and/or Foster Families (31.3%); Parent-School Relations (30.8%); Home Visiting (30%); Families of At-risk Adolescents (27.1%); Teenage Parents (27.1%); Child Development Age 5-8 (26.7%); Children with Special Needs (26.3%); Head Start Families/Early Head Start (25%); Assessment/Evaluation (24.2%); Expectant Mothers (20.4%); Step Parent Families (19.6%); Family Literacy (19.6%); Young Adulthood (18.3%); Cultural Diversity (17.9%); Divorce and/or Separation (17.5%); Domestic Violence (16.7%); Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (16.7%)
- Limited experience reported in the following areas: Hispanic Families, Native-American Families, Military Families, Fathering, Incarcerated Parents, Pre-Natal, Breast Feeding, Children and the Media, Mediation/Conflict Resolution, Ministry/Religious, Parenting Twins/Multiples
- 40 Different Curricula/Models were reported; 59 “Other” models not specified
- Parenting Educators(N=10 or more) using specific Curricula/Models
 - Triple P (27.5%)
 - 1,2,3 Magic (15%)
 - Active Parenting (14.2%)
 - Nurturing Parenting Program (13.3%)
 - Strengthening Families (11.3%)
 - Head Start Parent Involvement (10.8%)
 - STEP (8.3%)
 - Every Touch Counts (7.9%)
 - Effective Parenting (7.1%)
 - Parents As Teachers (6.3%)
 - How to Talk So Kids Will Listen (6.3%)
 - Children In The Middle (5.8%)
 - Effective Black Parenting (5.8%)
 - 1,2,3,4 Parents (5.4%)
 - Family Resource Centers (5.4%)
 - Partners For A Healthy Baby (5%)
 - Safe Sitter (4.2%)
 - Love and Logic (4.2%)
- 22 Curricula/Models used by less than 10 Parenting Educators
 - Partners in Parenting Education (9)
 - Making Parenting a Pleasure (9)
 - HIPPY (8)
 - 123 Parenting (7)
 - Bad Dads (6)
 - Parent To Parent (6)

Parenting Counts (6)
Parents As Partners (6)
Transparenting (6)
Baby University (5)
FAST (5)
Good Discipline, Good Kids (5)
Money Management In The Family (5)
Talaris Institute / Emotional Coaching (5)
Becoming A Dad (4)
Boys and Girls Club Parenting Education (4)
Discipline For Life (4)
Families Work! (4)
Focus On Children (4)
NCAST, NFP (4)
Parenting Creatively (4)
Parents On Board (4)

Conclusions: The information collected from the registry supports observations that parenting educators in Louisiana represent a wide range of educational levels, experience and areas of expertise. The majority of parenting educators work full-time and are reportedly females, White or Black/African American, and have Master's Degrees. Most are Licensed Social Workers, Certified Teachers, or certified or credentialed in a specific parenting curriculum or program, with 1-3 years or 11 or more years of experience. The primary profession of most registrants was described as parent educator or within the field of education (early childhood, elementary or secondary, or university/college).

The areas of expertise reported are collectively extensive covering a wide range of work. Experience with general parenting, African American families, and child development were the top areas. Few parenting educators reported having experience with Hispanic, Native-American or Military families, or with fathers or incarcerated parents. Experience in Pre-natal care, breast feeding, and parenting twins or multiples was also reported by only a small number of registrants.

At least 40 different parenting education curricula or models are being used throughout the state, with less than 10 parenting educators reporting using 22 of the models (over half). The models used by most registrants are Triple P-Positive Parenting Program, a highly documented evidence-based parenting program. A statewide implementation of Triple P began in 2010, and all trained practitioners were required to register on the LAPEN website. 1,2,3 Magic, Active Parenting, Nurturing Parenting Program and Strengthening Families are also models used by over 10% of respondents.

Recommendations: In order to capture a more complete picture of parenting education in Louisiana and increase the support available to parenting educators, the following is recommended:

- Have parenting educators update their registry information at least annually
- Specify licensures for Social Workers
- Specify “Other” parenting education curricula/models used