

<b>Initiative:</b>	Healthier Beginnings
<b>Project Name:</b>	<i>Growing Great Kids</i> <sup>TM</sup> Parenting & Childhood Development Program
<b>Funding Period:</b>	November 1, 2011 – October 31, 2012
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<b>Project Administration:</b>	Life Choices of North Central Louisiana
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## Program Summary

The *Growing Great Kids*<sup>TM</sup> program is a nationally recognized voluntary home-based visitation program that utilizes and deploys educational curriculum for intensive parenting and childhood education services targeted at critical points in a child's development. Beginning prenatally, *Growing Great Kids* provides a "how to" guide, or roadmap, for supporting parents and developing parenting competencies. It provides a structure for each home visit or group, and takes the "guess work" out of parent contacts and supervision.

*Growing Great Kids* puts difficult concepts into simple language by offering examples of words you could use, and the "how-to's" in the following areas:

- Building relationships with families that focus on program goals
- Growing parental empathy and nurturing relationships
- Doing activities that support childhood health, growth and development
- Integrating the latest information on supporting early brain development into daily parenting practices
- Gaining an understanding of parental/ family values
- Communicating to facilitate open discussion and parental empowerment
- Making age-appropriate toys from common household items
- Enhancing family relationships
- Extending families' support systems
- Addressing concerns and exploring solutions
- Cultivating critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Promoting parental self-care and health

Overall program objectives are as follows:

- **Prevention of Child Maltreatment** through parenting skill development and monitoring of home environments.
- **Facilitation of Positive Pregnancy and Child Health Outcomes** by teaching proper prenatal and postnatal care.
- **Improving Family Functioning** through the development of parenting and problem solving skills.
- **Optimization of Child Growth and Development** by enhancing parental knowledge of child development and linking with relative community resources.