

<b>Initiative:</b>	Healthier Beginnings
<b>Project Name:</b>	<i>Growing Great Kids</i> <sup>™</sup> Parenting & Childhood Development Program (Year 3)
<b>Funding Period:</b>	November 1, 2012 – October 31, 2013
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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>™</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*<sup>™</sup> puts difficult concepts into simple language by offering examples of practical "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

*Growing Great Kids™* 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.

Year 3 objectives are as follows:

- **Expansion of Services to Clients** of organizations within Life Choice's sphere of relationship, as well as other Lincoln Health Foundation grantees providing family counseling services as per the Foundation's strategic plan.
- **Improve Understanding of Available Resources** in Lincoln Parish and become an effective referral source to those organizations who would benefit from the services provided through the *Growing Great Kids™* program.
- **Expansion of Case Worker Caseload** to achieve a target rate of completion (rate of appointments kept/appointment made) of at least 80%, with a targeted completion rate of 90%.
- **Implementation of Training on the Parent Survey Tool**, an evidenced-based tool for learning about the strengths and challenges facing expectant and new parents, and determining which families in the community will benefit the most from intensive home visiting and other available parenting resources.