



REACH...

Respect parent roles and their diversity

Engagement, not just involvement

All families want their children to be successful so *Ask* what they need

Curriculum of the home

Help at home with knowledge and skills

Strategy Name: Stepping Stones for Step Families

Summary of Strategy: The program was designed within an ecological model of individual and family functioning at four levels: the individual with his/her own characteristics, the family's relationships and interactions, the family's interaction within the community and its systems, and the larger socio-cultural environment. Also family systems theory is embedded within the program's approach with the assumptions that individual interactions are reciprocal in nature and that the whole is greater than the sum of all its parts. Different learning styles require different types of educational strategies; thus, the program consists of a six-lesson home study course, a 35-minute video, an audiotape, single page fact sheets, a teaching guide, a training manual, and evaluation instruments. The basis of this program is a six-part home study course that includes these topics: building a strong couple relationship, maintaining a strong parent and child relationship, developing stepparent and stepchild relationships, understanding financial and legal issues, working with the absent parent and other persons outside the stepfamily, and nourishing the stepfamily in everyday living. These resources can be used in combination with each other or individually as the situation warrants.

REACH Link: *Curriculum of the home.*

Scientifically Based Research Level: Level 4 – Strong Evidence

Website Links: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/parenting/step.html>

Target Audience of Strategy: Parents of children 18 and under

Training and Follow-up Support for Implementation: A training manual is available which allows the educator to use these home study guides for conducting a workshop series for adults. Other materials available are a teaching guide for a one-hour presentation with 3 one-page fact sheets on parenting, grandparenting, and financial and legal issues. This teaching guide and fact sheets also are recorded on cassette tapes. The written publications are public domain materials that can be assessed and printed out by going to <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library> and searching for stepfamilies.

Role of the Educator in Implementation: Educators can reinforce concepts when working with families, serve as leaders, and/or assist with recruitment and promotion of the program.