



Focus Points

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

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Learn. Grow. Achieve.

In 1995, Focus Points Family Resource Center was founded with the intention of re-weaving a supportive and healthy social fabric that exemplified prevention, innovation and local responsiveness. Successful community programs for the residents of our community must promote both economic and social integration, be community-based and address a range of issues including navigating institutional obstacles.

Focus Points Family Resource Center is a community-based organization whose mission is to *help build better communities by strengthening families*. In that context, we customize and personalize each class to meet the needs of the individual participants. For example, our classes vary in schedule, location, duration and content in order to maximize learning opportunities. We employ active learning strategies in a variety of formats within the context of life skills, including employment, community service, health and transportation.

Because of our reputation in the community, we maintain waiting lists for all of our programs. Focus Points regularly employs residents from the community we serve, many of whom have never had a job outside the home. We offer hands-on training and goal-setting, and we encourage high participation in our programs by staff and the board, as well as participants. We provide on-going staff development. With these supports in place, many of our former participants have successfully moved into the work place, especially in the field of professional Early Childhood Education. Since Focus Points hires its family-services-delivery staff from among our constituents, there is no line distinguishing the center and its people from the community we serve. This is a fundamental value, and it informs all programming, policy and governance issues.

Focus Points follows the Family Literacy model, whose four components include Adult Education, Children's Education, Parenting Education and Parent and Child Together time. As such, our programs foster intergenerational learning and literacy development and build capacity within all members of the family. Our programs strengthen familial and community ties; reduce isolation and family violence and enhance the employability and independence of adult family members, while also increasing children's school preparedness, parents' participation in their children's education and parents' awareness of stages of childhood development.

Focus Points programs continually evolve to match the changing needs and demographics of the community. As a result, we have become a center uniquely expert at (but not limited to) working with the low-income, monolingual (Spanish) or bilingual (Spanish-English) population of North Central and Northeast Denver, which constitutes over 99% of our constituency. The following represent Focus Points' programmatic core: **English as a Second Language** (beginning, intermediate and advanced ESL instruction), **Open Book Adult Basic Education** (0-8th grade literacy program for English speakers), **GED in Spanish** (high school equivalency exam – focusing on math), **Early Childhood Education** (for the children of adult learners ages 18 months to 8 years), **Parents as Teachers** (PAT for children birth to 3 years), **Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-school Youngsters** (HIPPY for children 3 to 5 years), **Fortaleciendo Familias** (Strengthening Families multicultural child abuse prevention curriculum), **Los Padres y Las Madres** (Fathers and Mothers parent engagement curriculum) and **resource and referral services**. Additional programs include: computer literacy classes, nutrition classes, family counseling, college level coursework in Early Childhood Education and translation/interpretation.