

**Moving Forward:
A concurrent group program
for children exposed to woman abuse
and their mothers**

April 1, 2009 - March 31, 2010

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Moving Forward Program Statistics (2009-10)

Summary Points - Concurrent Group Program for Children and their Mothers

- Moving Forward is a 12 week (12 session) concurrent group program for children who have been exposed to domestic violence and their mothers. It is based on the Concurrent Group Program developed by Susan Loosely and Michelle Paddon through the Children’s Aid Society of London and Middlesex Ontario.
- Interested community partners apply to the Executive Council Office, Women’s Issues Branch, for program funding as part of the government of New Brunswick violence prevention initiatives.
- Women’s Issues Branch is in the fourth year of funding the program.
- In the fiscal year of 2007-2008 five regions received funding. This increased to 10 regions in 2008-2009.
- Currently 9 regions have the program available:
 - Miramichi
 - Saint John
 - Fredericton
 - Moncton
 - Acadian Peninsula
 - Edmundston
 - Woodstock
 - Sussex
 - Campbellton

In 2009-2010 the program operated in the following regions:

Miramichi, Moncton, Acadian Peninsula, Edmundston, Woodstock, Sussex, Saint John and Campbellton

Table 1
Total 2009-2010 Group Participants

| Number of groups April 1, 2009-March 31, 2010 | | 14 |
|--|-------------|----|
| Total Number of child participants | | 63 |
| | Males | 27 |
| | Females | 36 |
| | Ages: 4-6 | 10 |
| | Ages: 7-9 | 29 |
| | Ages: 10-13 | 18 |
| | Ages: 13-16 | 6 |
| Number of participant mothers | | 54 |
| Number of participant other caregivers | | 2 |

Table 2
*Alternative to group

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Total Number of child participants | 23 |
| Total Number of mother participants | 14 |

* Due to the demographics of a community, recruiting enough child participants of similar age and language to provide a group experience has been challenging. As an alternative, the agency provides careful supervision of a trained program facilitator and offers one on one support to the mothers and children while using the program materials as a resource and guide.

Qualitative participant feedback

The following is a sample of responses from child participants to the question *“How did you feel about being in this group?”*:

- “Good, it was fun”
- “Sad; happy; kinda nervous”
- “Awesome cause I want to make new friends and talk about feelings that have been hidden inside”
- “Excited cause I could make new friends and learn new things”
- “Awesome, wanting to make new friends and tell secrets I never shared before.”

Samples of mothers comments on evaluation forms:

- “The support from the facilitators and other members was amazing!”
- “It was helpful that all the women were at different stages of separation, I learned a lot from them and myself.”
- “It was very helpful to understand what my child had been through and how this was affecting their behavior”
- “Please continue this group in the future; it is so helpful to women”
- “I see a good difference in my child since we started the mom’s and kid’s groups. Thank you.”
- “This has been an excellent experience for me and my child. I have seen positive changes in her demeanor around home and everywhere. Her private counselor has noticed a different and attributes it to her group experience.”
- One participant that completed the group said she gained from taking the program; that the program met and surpassed her expectations. She identified learning what the children learned in their group, tools for conflict management, and parallels between her issues with abuse and her child’s experiences. She described the program as helpful, interesting, worthwhile and encouraging. She would have liked to see more moms participate. She would recommend the program to others.

Qualitative agency feedback

Ex. “Feedback was very positive overall and it is strongly believed that both the mothers and children gained much from this experience.”

“Moving Forward is a valuable asset to the local community that meets the needs of many...”