

Early Childhood Council
Family Matters Committee

Top Priority Strategies and Actions
January 2009

- 1. Educate parents and community professionals and distribute safety, child development, and parenting information at the most effective times and locations. Support a statewide information helpline and a web-based parenting resource directory.**

Committee activities: Partner with the Hallie Ford Center at OSU to build a comprehensive directory of parenting education efforts throughout the state. Work on the "Help Me Grow Project" to further develop existing phone and web based resource directories. Coordinate efforts with the Health Matters Committee.
- 2. Strengthen services that support parental health, safety, and well-being. Screen all parents for depression and other mental health issues, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and other risks, providing referrals and linkages to services.**

Committee activities: Participate in the Perinatal Depression Symposium in March 2009. Collaborate with the Help Me Grow Project and the Oregon Pediatric Society to develop and implement standardized psychosocial risk screening for parents, and specific screening for perinatal mood disorders. Coordinate efforts with the Health Matters Committee.
- 3. Encourage and support communities to include parenting education in their early childhood system of services. Identify and promote standards for parent educators and opportunities for professional workforce development.**

Committee activities: Gather information about current and emerging opportunities for workforce development including linking training to higher education credits, registries of parent educators, and current training efforts throughout the state. Research and report on existing standards in Oregon and nationally.