Circle of Security is a community collaboration involving the Franklin and Miami county health departments, primary care physicians, public schools, and Infant-Toddler Part C Early Intervention agencies. Circle of Security parent groups are provided to establish healthier attachments, improve child behavior, increase nurturing from parents, and encourage a supportive home life for all members of the family.

**CIRCLE OF SECURITY**

**ELIZABETH LAYTON CENTER**

"After she completed the Circle of Security program, one of our moms reported her children seemed more compliant, less aggressive, and were playing better together. She attributed these changes to the changes she had made in her parenting and using the Circle of Security concepts."

- Betsy Scott-Teigen, Circle of Security provider

**STRATEGIES**

- Parent education
- Parent-child interaction support
- Home visiting
- Staff training and professional development

Serving children and families living in poverty
CHALLENGES
• 15% of children in Franklin County and 9% of children in Miami County are living below the poverty line.
• Families in Franklin and Miami counties face a shortage of available child care, particularly center-based programs for early intervention services and for children identified as having special needs.¹
• Miami County has no pediatricians and there is only one pediatrician in Franklin County, making it increasingly difficult to connect at-risk children to services/resources.
• Franklin and Miami counties have just one hospital, which only delivers low-risk pregnancies.

SOLUTIONS
• Attachment-based intervention that teaches positive parenting skills using observation and reflection.
• Eight to ten home visits or individual class sessions for at-risk families with children from birth-24 months.
• Parent education that is sensitive and responsive to trauma and informed by research on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

COLLABORATION
• Created new partnerships with a local library and the Ottawa Recreation Commission where they plan to begin holding Circle of Security (COS) groups.
• Offered weekly COS groups at the Miami County Health Department.
• Received referrals from local libraries and schools, Early Head Start and Head Start, Ransom Memorial Hospital, Kaw Valley Center, and Willow Domestic Violence Center.
• Invited a home visitor from the health department to attend COS meetings held there, allowing her to continue using the material and reinforcing the parenting skills in her home visits.

SPECIAL POPULATION OUTREACH
• Collaborated with a local homeless shelter to provide transportation to residents who wished to attend COS classes.
• Grew by increasing the number of expecting parents attending COS groups, providing opportunities for parent education before a baby is even born.

EVIDENCE BASE
Promising: The COS curriculum is an intervention with model fidelity and has at least one peer-reviewed study with a control or comparison group.
The number of families who scored a three or above increased or remained stable between pre- and post-test on the following subscales of the PFS-2 (n = 5):

- Family Functioning/Resilience by 25%
- Social Supports by 25%
- Caregiver/Practitioner Relationship remained stable
- Nurturing and Attachment remained stable

*The sample was too small to assess for statistical significance.*

**TOTAL FUNDING:** $39,501

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“CBCAP funds give us the ability to provide outreach to the children and families who need our services the most but may not otherwise be reached.”

- Betsy Scott-Teigen, Circle of Security provider