



Birth & Beyond Program Success Story

Maria, a mother of three children, aged one, three, and eight years old, attended the Nurturing Parenting Program workshop after she was referred by Child Protective Services, and was facing court for custody to be granted to the other parent. In the first NPP session, Maria disclosed that there were many things that seemed to be going wrong for her, due to her decisions in the past. She was vocal about how her children's father was at fault for putting her in this situation and stated that drugs and homelessness put her in a state of "survival mode".



As the sessions moved along, in addition to the lesson topics, the Family Resource Aide began sharing experiences regarding their own childhood, disciplinary practices, and the impacts these experiences had on how they parented their own son. During the middle of the program, Maria began to ask more questions. Over time, Maria began to take notes, as well as became more honest about her situation. The Family Resource Aide was able to build a strong rapport and connection with Maria and saw her transition into a mother who was eager to find the tools to make her family as successful as possible. Maria eventually recognized and shared that she was in her current situation due to her own actions, and that she needed to change to have a better outcome. Maria was able to take responsibility for being chronically late, and not accomplishing her homework or motherly duties, and genuinely felt remorse for not applying herself, and setting a poor example for her children.

Due to missing classes during the Nurturing Parenting Program, Maria had to make up some lessons. After scheduling and attending make up lessons, the Family Resource Aide saw a shift in this mother; she was able to understand and employ the tools that were shared in the class. Maria shared that she will no longer let difficulties control what type of parent she will be to her children, and she was no longer going to be a victim. Maria finished the program and shared she would be getting her children out of foster care in two weeks.