

Center for Health Literacy Promotion Research Summary

How Useful are National Library of Medicine Resources for Maternal Child Health Home Visitation Programs?

Maternal Health Literacy: cognitive and social skills that determine the motivation and ability of mothers to gain access to understand and use information in ways that promote and maintain their health and that of their children. (Renkert and Nutbeam 2001)

Project Description

This Assessment and Planning project aims to assess the feasibility and potential effectiveness of MCH home visitation programs as a channel to bring the resources of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) to disadvantaged and isolated families, and to provide direct assistance to personalize information and apply it in context. The project will inform recommendations for NLM and National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Pacific Northwest Region on disseminating national resources through home visitation and guide efforts to tailor NLM resources for growing families with high risk for low health literacy.

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Funder: National Library of Medicine

Study Period 2010-2011

For more information [Sandra Smith](#)

Key Findings

Participants reported the **most useful learnings for their practice** include:

a) Think, Link & Respond (the reflective process); they requested additional training and resources to use reflective questioning and learning

b) MedlinePlus.gov will be useful to families:

We can teach families how to use it.

Doctors tell patients “Don’t Google this - you might get overwhelmed. We might tell them to investigate anyway, but we need to know where quality, reliable information is.

We are in a position to train patients to work with doctors. We can help families formulate questions.

We can teach them to navigate the system.

Some won’t use a .gov site, distrust of government resources.

c) MedlinePlus.gov is:

user- friendly

easy to navigate

Relevant

In multiple languages, especially Spanish

Publications

Read the [Final Report](#)

This project resulted in the production of the workshop as a series of three brief [training videos](#) available free from the Center for Health Literacy Promotion.

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