



EARLY LEARNING & SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM

THE PROBLEM

Teen moms striving to break the cycle of poverty usually have a limited vocabulary and lack the ability to communicate with standard word choice. These deficiencies are passed on to their children -- which means both generations lack the language abilities necessary to succeed in school.

In fact, children of teen parents are 50% more likely to repeat a grade and are less likely to graduate from high school. This is a significant problem because education is key in breaking out of poverty.

THE SOLUTION

The good news is that children who attend a high quality Early Learning program are:

- less likely to repeat a grade in school
- less likely to drop out of high school
- more likely to attend and graduate from college
- more likely to be employed as an adult
- less likely to receive public assistance as an adult

The Early Learning Program at Hope House is designed to enhance language acquisition skills and improve social/emotional skills in the children of our teen moms, better positioning them to break the cycle of poverty. This program provides age-appropriate development lessons based on the nationally recognized *Little InvestiGators* curriculum.

Under the supervision of our Early Learning Manager, trained volunteers and teachers provide Early Learning lessons to the children of our teen moms while they are busy working in our self-sufficiency classes. The goal is to help the children of our teen moms develop the skills they need to succeed in school, as well as to help them successfully transition to a full-time, quality Early Learning Center, setting both mom and child up for long term success.

CONTACT US

Please contact us at 303.429.1012 or info@hopehousecolorado.org

Did you know?

A middle-class **3-year-old** has a working vocabulary of **1,200 words**. A poverty class **adult** has a working vocabulary of only **900 words**. Language development is a key component of our Early Learning Program, and we need volunteers to work with the children of our teen moms.



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

See back for details.



EMPOWERING TEEN MOMS

www.hopehousecolorado.org



VOLUNTEERS MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE

Early language development is key to a strong start in elementary school!

The majority of our teen moms cannot afford the cost of preschool for their child, which puts them at a proven disadvantage when they begin Kindergarten – and continues to affect them throughout their educational career.

Our program is designed to help the children of our teen moms develop the skills they need to grow and learn. We begin with ASQ-3 screening, an online tool that provides instant feedback about the development of each child across all five learning domains. Once our teachers screen a child, they schedule a parent- teacher conference where they share the feedback about the child's development and provide intervention activities to do at home. Volunteers in the Early Learning Program work alongside teachers in the classroom to provide activities that directly support the individualized growth of each child, specifically targeting any identified delays.

TRAINING REQUIRED

Volunteers are required to complete an Early Learning Training session with our Early Learning Program Manager. This short session will equip you to make a lasting impact on the language development of the children of our teen moms. Volunteers over age 18 must complete a background check.

INTERESTED?

Please contact Lisa Kirk-Plowman at:
Lisa.Kirk-Plowman@hopehousecolorado.org or 303-429-1012.

Alenah, who is just 3 years old, was having a tough time leaving her mom and was afraid to enter our Early Learning classroom. However, it wasn't long until Alenah had a change of heart, begging her mom to go to Hope House. She even asked her Hope House teacher to give her homework so she could be "just like Mommy!"

