

# Health Learning Parties



Where hope takes root

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**In partnership with**

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Ready at Five, Baltimore



# Goals

- To provide health education to families in *Promise Heights* and increase parental empowerment in the use of available healthcare resources to improve their children's health
  - Increase the confidence of parents who attend Health Learning Parties in their ability to attend to their children's health care needs and navigate the health care system to best access appropriate care for their children
  - Increase the percentage of children who participate in Health Learning Parties who have a primary care provider
  - Decrease inappropriate emergency department or urgent care usage for the children who attend Health Learning Parties

# Program

- Each “party” included 4 sessions:
  - “The Well Child Care Visit”
  - “Healthcare Professionals”
  - “Staying Healthy”
  - “Environmental Safety”
- Additional optional session:
  - Identifying a medical home
- Family style dinner prior to each meal
- Separate parent and child sessions followed by time together
- Homework/practice activities with materials to keep



# Outcomes

- Three sets of learning parties were held
  - 21 families recruited
  - 12 participated
    - In Party 2: of 5 families - 2 attended 1 session, 1 attended 2 sessions, 3 attended 3 sessions, none attended 4 sessions
- All had identified primary care physicians at the beginning of the sessions
- Cohort 1 increased health knowledge by 76%
- Unforeseen challenges
  - Recruitment and retention of families
  - Data collection
  - Weather and civil unrest
  - Turnover in project staff



# Lessons Learned/Next Steps

We found that:

- Time and location were good
- Recruitment needs more attention
- Child-only sessions need better structure
- Data collection requires more effort

We plan to:

- Conduct 2 more parties with the above in mind
- Consent families to track ER use
- Update the Learning Party curriculum for use by others through Ready at Five

