

**Situation:** In the U.S., approximately 1.5 million children experience parental divorce each year, and it is estimated that one-third of U.S. children will live in a stepfamily before they reach age 18. Teachers can be an important source of support for children experiencing difficult family transitions. A survey of 72 schools in Missouri demonstrated that 82% perceived a need for in-service training on working with children whose parents have divorced. *Families and Divorce: A Program for Professionals* was developed in response. The purpose of this program is to provide teachers and other professionals with research-based information on how divorce affects children and families and strategies they can use to provide support for divorced parents and their children.

# Families and Divorce: A Program for Professionals

Inputs	Outputs			Outcomes	
<p>Campus (MU HDFs) and field faculty (HES, HDFs, and 4-H specialists)</p> <p>Community partners (school districts, childcare centers, Head Start)</p> <p>Facilities</p> <p>Program equipment and supplies</p>	Activities	Participation	Initial	Intermediate	Long Term
	<p>Participants attend 2-4 hour program</p> <p>Participants receive packet of written materials</p>	<p>Number of teachers, childcare providers, school administrators, guidance counselors, or other professionals who work with children</p> <p>Number of sessions conducted</p> <p>Number of counties in which the program is provided</p>	<p>Awareness of facts about divorce and families</p> <p>Awareness of the needs and reactions of children of various ages to divorce</p> <p>Recognition of factors that make it easier or harder for children to adjust to divorce</p> <p>Awareness of community resources and sources of additional information</p> <p>Awareness of the importance of communicating with both parents</p> <p>Planning to use program strategies to support divorced parents and their children divorce</p>	<p>Recognize needs and reactions of children when family changes take place</p> <p>Use program strategies to support children who have experienced parental divorce</p> <p>Refer parents to appropriate community resources or sources of additional information on divorce-related issues, as needed</p> <p>Communication with both parents</p>	<p>Schools have policies that are inclusive of divorced and remarried families</p> <p>The school climate is supportive of children with divorced parents</p>
				Indicators	<p>School policy changes and increase in resources available (survey of Missouri schools)</p>