

Situation: In the year 2000 in Missouri, over 20,000 children experienced parental divorce, which is associated with increased risk of behavioral, psychological, and academic difficulties for children. However, if divorcing parents are responsive to their children's needs and reduce the amount of conflict to which children are exposed, their children are more likely to adapt well to the divorce. Parents who are divorcing and have at least one child under the age of 18 are required by the state of Missouri to take a 2.5 hour parent education class. Therefore, there is a statewide need for divorce education programs that provide information about children's responses to divorce, as well as the importance of minimizing coparental conflict and increasing coparental cooperation.

Focus on Kids

Inputs	Outputs			Outcomes	
Campus (MU HDFs) and field faculty (HES, HDFs, and 4-H specialists) Community partners (Missouri circuit courts) Facilities Program equipment and supplies	Activities	Participation	Initial	Intermediate	Long Term
	2.5 hour program Packet of written materials Materials on MissouriFamilies website	Number of divorcing parents Number of sessions conducted Number of counties in which the program is provided	Awareness of importance of working cooperatively and supporting child's continuing relationship with both parents Awareness of children's common reactions to divorce Planning to engage in cooperative coparenting and to avoid negative coparenting behaviors Awareness of available community resources for divorcing parents	Use program strategies to support children's relationship with other parent Make a stronger effort to work cooperatively with other parent Recognize children's reactions to family changes Use program strategies to reduce conflict with the other parent Use of community resources, if needed	Parents who are not living together cooperate in coparenting Children adjust well to divorce.
			Increase in knowledge/ awareness (end of session surveys)	Indicators Use of skills learned in program (follow-up survey)	Higher rates of cooperative coparenting and lower rates of child behavior problems 2 or more years after divorce (national survey data)