

Brief Description	Family Connections (FC) is a multi-faceted community-based program that works with vulnerable families in their homes, in the context of their neighborhoods, to help them meet the basic needs of their children and prevent child maltreatment and out-of-home placement.
FC Core Components	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intake & screening 2. Outreach & engagement 3. Concrete/emergency needs assessment and services 4. Comprehensive family assessment (including the use of standardized clinical assessment instruments) 5. Outcome driven service plans with SMART goals 6. Change focused intervention <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Minimum of 1 hour per week of purposeful change focused intervention in the home b) Advocacy/service facilitation 7. Evaluation of Change (at least every 90 days after the initial service plan) – including the assessment of change over time using standardized assessment instruments 8. Case closure
Target Population	Families with children (birth to 18) who are at risk of child maltreatment.
Outcomes	Original research indicated positive change over time in protective factors (parenting attitudes, parenting competence, social support); diminished risk factors (parental depressive symptoms, parenting stress, life stress); and improved child safety (physical and psychological care of children) and child behavior (internalizing and externalizing behavior). Agencies replicating FC have demonstrated similar changes in risk and protective factors over time.
Length of Service	The initial service period is 6months, with the option of extending intervention in 90-day increments when outcomes have not been achieved. <i>It is important to note that shorter interventions have demonstrated greater cost effectiveness in the original demonstration and by replicating programs evaluated by a federally funded cross site evaluation.</i>
Staff Qualifications	BSW or MSW under the supervision of an Advanced MSW Clinical Social Work Supervisor. At least one hour of individual supervisory coaching and 1 hour of group supervision are required every week.

Workload/Caseload	Fidelity criteria focus on performance of core intervention components (e.g., at least one hour per week of face to face change focused interventions), rather than a pre-determined caseload size. Individual providers have been more likely to meet Family Connections fidelity when caseloads have not exceeded eight families per case planner.
Overview of General Requirements	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comply with all Family Connections Fidelity Criteria 2. Participate in a Readiness to Implement Family Connections assessment at start up. 3. Ideally, supervisors complete a Building Coaching Competency 2-day course 4. All staff complete the Building Competence for Family Connections Practice hybrid course (partially online and live), all staff complete homework that guides FC practice in all components 5. All staff implement the intervention as outlined in the Family Connections Intervention Manual 6. QI staff build competence in using Qualtrics to support the Computer Assisted Interview and the Qualtrics case review fidelity tool 7. All programs must provide electronic devices (tablets, smart phones, laptops) that staff use with families for the Computer Assisted Self Interview (CASI) required during the comprehensive family assessment and evaluation of change intervention components. 8. Programs agree to participate in data sharing and evaluation. 9. Programs participate in an assessment of fidelity every six months 	
CONTACT Diane DePanfilis	diane.depanfilis@hunter.cuny.edu ; phone – 917-453-2296 NOTE: Installation and Implementation Training and Technical Assistance is provided by ACTION for Child Protection

COSTS: We individualize approaches to the size and needs of the program to cover installation, training, technical assistance, implementation support, and fidelity assessment.

Published Papers about Family Connections:

- Brodowski, M. L., & Filene, J. H. (2009). Engaging program staff in economic evaluation: Lessons learned and recommendations for practice. *Protecting Children, 24*(3), 70-77.
- Bridge, T. J., Massie, E. G., & Mills, C. S. (2008). Prioritizing cultural competence in the implementation of an evidence-based practice model. *Children and Youth Services Review, 30*, 1111-1118. doi: 10.1016/j.chilyouth.2008.02.005
- Collins, K. S., Strieder, F., DePanfilis, D., Tabor, M., Freeman, P., Linde, L., & Greenberg, P. (2011). Trauma Adapted Family Connections (TA--FC): Reducing developmental and complex trauma symptomatology to prevent child abuse and neglect. *Child Welfare, 90*, 29-47.
- Corso, P., & Filene, J. H. (2009). Programmatic cost analysis of the Family Connections Program. *Protecting Children, 24*(3), 78-88.
- DePanfilis, D. (2015). Family Connections: Using collaborative partnerships to support dissemination. *New Directions in Child and Adolescent Development, 149*, 57-67. coi:10.1002/cad.20113.
- DePanfilis, D. (2009). Using prevention science to reduce the risk of child neglect. *Children Australia, 34*(1), 40-44.
- DePanfilis, D., & Dubowitz, H. (2005). Family Connections: A program for preventing child neglect. *Child Maltreatment, 10*, 108-123. doi: 10.1177/1077559505275252
- DePanfilis, D., Dubowitz, H., & Kunz, J. (2008). Assessing the cost-effectiveness of Family Connections. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 32*, 335-351. doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2007.06.005
- DePanfilis, D., Filene, J. H., & Brodowski, M. L. (2009). Introduction to Family Connections and the national replication effort. *Protecting Children, 24*(3), 4-14.
- Filene, J. H., Brodowski, M. L., & Bell, J. (2014). Using cost analysis to examine variability in replications of an efficacious child neglect prevention program. *Journal of Public Child Welfare, 8*(4), 375- 396. doi: 10.1080/15548732.2014.939249
- Girvin, H., DePanfilis, D., & Daining, C. (2007). Predicting program completion among families enrolled in a child neglect preventive intervention. *Research on Social Work Practice, 17*, 674-685. doi: 10.1177/1049731507300285
- Lindsey, M. A., Hayward, R. A., & DePanfilis, D. (2010). Gender differences in behavioral outcomes among children at risk of neglect: Findings from a family-focused prevention intervention. *Research on Social Work Practice, 20*, 572---581. doi: 10.1177/1049731509349713
- Sharpe, T., DePanfilis, D., Strieder, F., & Gregory, G. (2009). Replication of Family Connections: Lessons learned from grandparents. *Protecting Children, 24*(3), 58-68.

- Simpson, G. M. (2017). Social support and survival strategies of older African American grandmother Caregivers. *GrandFamilies: The Contemporary Journal of Research, Practice and Policy*, 4(2), 24-51.
- Stephens, K., Mills, C., Williams, C., Bridge, T., & Massie, E. (2009). Maximizing the therapeutic helping alliance with high-risk families. *Protecting Children*, 24(3), 28-38.
- Swanson Ernst, J., Meyer, M., & DePanfilis, D. (2004). Housing characteristics and adequacy of physical care of children: An exploratory analysis. *Child Welfare, Special Issue on Housing and Homelessness*, 83, 437-452.
- Theriot, M.T., O'Day, K. R., & Hatfield, K. (2009). Client and service use predictors of successfully completing a child maltreatment prevention program. *Protecting Children*, 24(3), 39-50.
- Wu, S. T, Mimura-Lazare, A., Petrucci, C. J., Kageyama, N., & Suh, C. (2009). Culturally competent practice with Cambodian and Korean families in Los Angeles: Results from a 5-year replication project of Family Connections. *Protecting Children*, 24(3), 16-27.
- Zaid, S., Eames, C., Driver, D., & LeGendre, A. (2009). Integrating research and clinical practice through collaborative therapeutic assessment. *Protecting Children*, 24(3), 51-58.

Dissertations using Family Connections data:

- Leah Bartley – Making it happen: Understanding worker and organizational factors related to fidelity to Family Connections, a child maltreatment prevention program. Ph.D. 2017, University of Maryland, Baltimore.
- Melissa Lim Brodowski – Factors associated with changes in parental depressive symptoms: A longitudinal multilevel analysis of parents at high risk for child maltreatment. Ph.D. 2012, University of Maryland, Baltimore.
- R. Anna Hayward, Neighborhood conditions, father involvement, parenting competence, and behavior problems in a sample of children at risk for neglect: A structural equation model. Ph.D. 2009, University of Maryland, Baltimore.
- Gaynell M. Simpson – An exploration of social support and coping and the impact on caregiver well-being among African American grandmothers who provide care for their grandchildren. Ph.D. 2003, University of Maryland, Baltimore.

A few past Faculty and Staff Affiliated with Family Connections – Baltimore.

