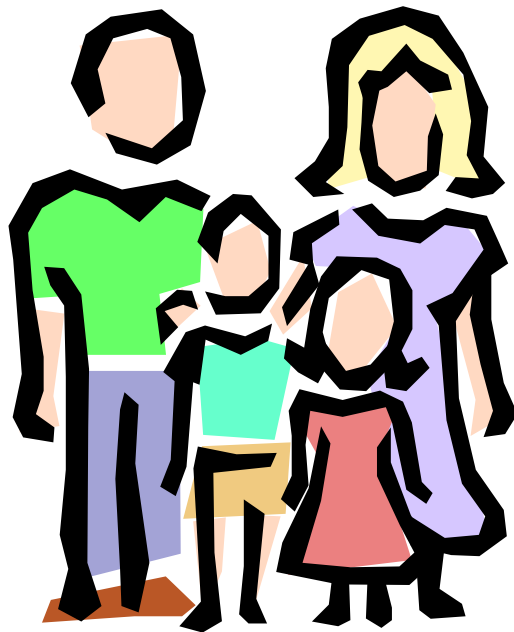


The Milestones Project



Prevent Youth Violence

The Milestones Project

Milestones Principles:

- Parents are primarily responsible for the safety of their children.
- Parents deserve a voice and, when appropriate, consent in any direct intervention into the lives of their children.
- The violent child is usually a troubled child.
- The violent child usually exhibits observable symptoms prior to acting out.
- Response to youth violence improves when community partners work beyond traditional roles.

Milestones:

Lessons that have Guided Us

- Any community is vulnerable...even ours.
- Debating the causes of youth violence is distracting and unproductive.
- With the right information, parents will do the right thing.
- Child focused organizations must rely on each other.
- There is no single cause and no single solution to youth violence.
- Confidentiality (mental health, education) versus public information (police) in different partners (how to resolve).
- Recognizing each other's uniqueness in identifying a referral; development of respect and trust; and the validation of partner's opinions during the identifying/referral process.
- Keep it manageable
- Keep it focused

GUIDELINES AND CHARACTERISTICS TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL MILESTONES YOUTH

PLEASE NOTE THAT WHILE ANY ONE OF THESE GUIDELINES OR CHARACTERISTICS ALONE MAY NOT INDICATE A POTENTIAL MILESTONES YOUTH, TAKEN TOGETHER, THEY PROVIDE A CONTEXT THAT MAY ASSIST YOU IN MAKING THAT DETERMINATION.

The two (2) main criteria to look for are:

1. Any time a threat is made. This threat can be made to another person (student), to an authority figure (teacher) or to an institution (school).
2. There has been a serious violent act committed or a history of violent behaviors.

If one of the above criteria is met and any/some of the following characteristics are present:

- A. Lacks effective parental cooperation/participation.
- B. Has any affiliation with gangs or cults.
- C. Is isolated from others, is ostracized or is bearing a grudge against society, has low self-esteem, displays unkempt or unusual dress.
- D. Has access to weapons and/or has a preoccupation with weapons.
- E. Has a mental health issue.
- F. Has an obsession with violence or violent thoughts, e.g.,
 - a. Obsession with violent music;
 - b. Expression of violence through art;
 - c. Obsessive interest in killings, previous killings, historical acts of violence, or destruction/fire/explosions.
- G. Has been a victim of violence and/or lives in a violent home.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES- CURRENT MILESTONES PARTNERS

Schools and School Districts:

- Identification of youth (referral)
- Coordination Between schools
- Training of staff (faculty)
- Provision of services
- Lead agency (as appropriate)

Law Enforcement Agency

- Identification of youth
- Gathering/sharing information (feedback)
- Parent resource director
- Support for other agencies
- Consultation
- Training of staff

Child Protective Services

- Identification and referral
- Assess for CPS involvement
- Provision of services
- Consultation (family history)
- CPS Referral expedition (assistance)
- Training of staff
- Lead agency (as appropriate)

Juvenile Probation Office

- Screening for court (legal) involvement
- Provision of service (adjudicated)
- Parent education (non-adjudicated)
- Support/consultation
- Feedback
- Training of staff
- Lead agency (as appropriate)

West Yavapai Guidance Clinic / Spectrum Health – Verde Valley / Child and Family Support Services

- Assessment and referral
- Consultation
- Provision of services
- Training of staff
- Lead Agency (as appropriate)
- Facilitation
- CFT

Educational Services Agency

- Fiscal Agent / Facilitator / Steering Committee / Staff Training

Community Count

- Supporting Partner

The Milestones Project Flow-Chart

The Reporting Agency confers with internal staff to determine that the child fits the Milestones profile. Parent signs the consent form.



The Reporting Agency submits the Milestones electronic file with parent permission attached on-line through <http://ycesa.com/teachers-administrators>.



The Milestones file is sent electronically to the liaisons for the lead agencies; Schools, Juvenile Probation, Police and Mental Health. They will confer through e-mail, phone, fax, ITV or in person.



Once a majority is in agreement that the child fits the Milestones profile, the Reporting Agency will arrange a meeting with all applicable agencies and the family. Decisions will be made about appropriate services and referrals.



Services will be provided to the child.



The Reporting Agency will use the follow-up report to inform participating agencies of the progress of the child through <http://ycesa.com/teachers-administrators>

