



WHY PARENTING EDUCATION?

*Positive Implications for
Incarcerated Parents*

OVERVIEW

1. Background & History
2. Research
3. Connections
4. New Directions
5. Conclusion



The growing number of children with an incarcerated parent represents one of the most significant **collateral consequences** of the record prison population in the U.S.


The Sentencing Project, 2009



About half of children with an incarcerated parent are **less than 10 years old**

In the United States, there are nearly **3 million** children with an incarcerated parent





In 2002, data
from an **Oregon**
inmate survey
indicated that

20,000 CHILDREN

had a parent who was incarcerated in prison

Oregon ranked 7th
in the nation in
female prison
population growth



A child whose parent is incarcerated often struggles with **complicated emotions** when trying to understand the situation:

Trauma

Stigma

Shame

Confusion

Guilt

Stress

Separation Anxiety





CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED ARE MORE LIKELY TO:

- Struggle with emotional and behavioral problems
- Perform poorly in school
- Be involved in state services
- Face economic hardship
- Experience family and economic instability



WHAT CAN PARENTING EDUCATION DO TO HELP?

"Parent education programs may serve a vital role in helping to reduce the numerous negative consequences associated with parental incarceration and also **build important skills and behaviors** among incarcerated parents,"

Wilson, K., Gonzalez, P., Romero, T., Henry, K., & Cerbana, C. (2010). The effectiveness of parent education for incarcerated parents: An evaluation of parenting from prison. *Journal of Correctional Education*, 114-132.

The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of a sailboat on the water. The boat's mast and rigging are visible in the foreground, and the water extends to the horizon under a bright sky. The overall color palette is dominated by blues and whites, with a soft, out-of-focus aesthetic.

Parenting Education Resources

- Parenting Inside Out (PIO) Curriculum
- InsideOut Dad Curriculum
- Little Children, Big Challenges Incarceration Toolkit - Sesame Street
- Children of Incarcerated Parents Project - State of Oregon
- The National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated

Research shows that
incarcerated parents
**benefit from parenting
education**

Improved confidence in parenting abilities

Reduced feelings of isolation

*Increased connections
and contact with
children*



Being a parent matters to me now

What I liked the most was learning about the development stages of children and what behavior to expect for the child's stage

I have a better understanding about children's behavior patterns and learning stages

I KNOW MORE TO BE A BETTER PARENT

It will help me better understand my child, which will make his life better in many ways

▶ How should we move forward given the tools/resources that we have through OPEC and the community?

▶ What opportunities exist in your community for partnership between parenting education organizations and community corrections?

▶ What funding sources exist in your community to support parenting education for families who have or are experiencing incarceration?

▶ What next steps can you take together to better serve families in your community?





THANK YOU!

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