

Family Solutions for Youth at Risk

Applications to Juvenile Delinquency, Truancy, and Behavior Problems

William H. Quinn

Family Solutions for Youth at Risk is a presentation of an effective model program for resolving problem behaviors of youth utilizing the participation of the family. Background theory and research presented argues for the necessity of including parents, even multiple families, in the delivery of intervention. Using case studies and illustrations, the book tells the story of a group of families taking the journey together through the Family Solutions Program. The inclusion of parents or guardians in the intervention provides an opportunity to recognize the part a parent plays in the overall circumstance and development of a youth at-risk. Parent involvement enhances communication and cohesion in the family, reduces blame directed at the child, improves family decision-making skills, promotes educational success by building the parent advocacy role in education and strengthening the home-school partnership, and provides a learning laboratory for acquiring conflict-resolution and parenting skills. The model is described in detail, group leader skills for successful outcomes are delineated, and to bolster its validity, outcome data are presented to provide justification for the benefits of the intervention. Finally, practitioners are presented with core principles that are key to a successful collaboration with schools, agencies, and juvenile courts.

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