**Running head: FAMILY RESOURCE ASSIGNMENT 1**

**ECC 163 / CVS3 & CVS4**

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**FAMILY RESOURCE ASSIGNMENT 2**

Young Parent Program

I learnt with passion and prompt response and attention the Young Parent Program team

 is ready to help our young teen parents in our Comox Valley. Providing “an atmosphere of trust

 and respect, confidentiality, and help to connect them to appropriate community resources”

(L. Wilson, 2018, p.349).

I am extremely impressed with the large coverage of support the Young Parent Program

(YPP) offers to our teen parents. Support for completing high school/college education,

counselling, mental health, public health nurses, dental hygienist, child development, budgeting,

 nutrition, family life skills, and more. The YPP work with an individual approach for each teen

parent to provide the best care and support for the teen, which opens the pathways to a well

balanced education, social, and healthy life style for the teen parent. YPP supports teen parents

enrolled in School District #71 and who are under the age of 25 and have had their first child

born before their 20th birthday.

One of the many strengths this program has, is its own unique community. YPP is

located on School District #71 G.P. Vanier High School property. Along with two licensed

daycare facilities, Teddies ‘N’ Toddlers Daycare Centre (0-3 years old) and Little Friends Early

Learning Centre (3-5 years old). Both facilities are designated YPP child care providers and

staffed with qualified experienced Early Childhood Educators. This unique YPP community

connects the high school for education and child care centres for child care in close proximity of

 one another. This allows teen parents to feel close and connected with their infant while they are

 **FAMILY RESOURCE ASSIGNMENT 3**

completing high school, and provides opportunities for teen parents to see their infant

throughout the day.

While attending high school the teen parents are able to gain school credits when participating in

 skill development programs. Learning cooking skills with the Hot Lunch Program, twice a

week, the teen parents cook lunch for all students, including themselves, and for all the children

 attending Teddies ‘N’ Toddlers Daycare Centre is one of the many skill development programs.

Together the YPP and their community resources, along with G.P. Vanier High School,

 Teddies ‘N’ Toddlers Daycare Centre, and Little Friends Learning Centre have a close/direct

working relationship with one another. Providing a strong support team leads to a positive and

successful outcome for the new teen family.

Through multiple government ministries funding programs, funding is provided for child

care fees and diapers, transportation cost, allowing teen parents to attend meeting, court hearings,

 grocery, and running errands, along with mental and health care appointments.

Even though the Young Parent Program supports Mom and Dad, not all Dads’s feel

supported. If I could change anything with the program I would look into coordinating more one

 on one support programs for Dads. As much as this is life changing for a Mom it is also the

same for the Dad. And along comes financial obligations, change in social and behavioural

patterns, judgment from others, and how much time will Dad have with the infant if not living

with the Mom. “Young fathers clearly need more coordinated support. Some support may come

from grandparents and friends of the family but community agencies need to develop more

structured and supportive programs to assists young fathers in their new role” (L.Wilson, 2018,

p.349). I feel with more support programs for Dads there would be an increase with the

relationship between Dads and their infant’s which would also increase the infants development

in a healthy and positive manner.

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As an Early Childhood Educator caring for an infant is my first priority, however I

strongly believe we care for the family needs also. The more knowledge we gain through

education allows us to share that knowledge with our daycare families. Learning about the

Young Parent Program enables me to help families through a difficult time by letting them know

 they are not alone. To be supportive, non-judgemental, provide encouragement, and to help the

family to build a relationship with the YPP would give me joy to know I have done the best I can

 to help a family.

 I believe the Young Parent Program provides an important role in our young teen

community. Teaching them the value of their worth during this difficult time at a young age

while encouraging the teen parent there is hope in the future while raising a young family. I feel

the support provided by the YPP team is outstanding and well coordinated for each teen parent

individually.

**FAMILY RESOURCE ASSIGNMENT 5**

**References**

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