

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOUNDATION GRANT FUNDS
NEW PARENTING CLASS FOR TEEN MOTHERS

For nearly a quarter century, Tabor Children's Services has offered a Supervised Independent Living (SIL) program to prepare youth with the skills to manage independently when they leave the child welfare system at age 21. Since 1992, Tabor has provided parenting instruction to teach families who wish to retain or regain custody of their children the ways to make safe homes. Now, through a grant from the Hoxie Harrison Smith Foundation, Tabor will tailor parenting classes to the needs and schedules of young mothers in Tabor's SIL program.

These classes will be offered weekly in Tabor's Germantown-area office, with a choice of a morning or an afternoon session. This choice is to accommodate the schedules of the young mother-baby SIL clients, who each attend an educational program and maintain at least part-time employment. Content in the classes will include child development, bonding, child nutrition, health and medical care, the necessity of child supervision, and the appropriate selection of care givers and child care providers. The desired outcomes are: 1)a thriving, healthy baby who is meeting milestones; 2)appropriate mother-baby interactions and mother meeting child's needs, and 3)well-baby appointments kept and immunizations current. Foundation funding for this mother-baby parenting project will give the young mothers the chance to learn the skills that will keep their babies safe. The over-arching goal is to prevent the need for these children to enter the child welfare system, which their mothers are preparing to leave.

Created in 1920, the Hoxie Harrison Smith Foundation was formerly called the Smith Foundation. Its purposes include support for benevolent, charitable and educational undertakings, and for improvements in the physical, mental and moral condition of humanity.

Founded in 1907 and serving children, youth and families for more than 100 years, Tabor Children's Services is committed to keeping children safe, strengthening families and promoting independence. From its offices on Armat Street in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, care for clients includes, in addition to the SIL program, in-home protective services, foster care, special needs adoption, parenting education, and outpatient mental health therapy.

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