

Introduce and Share

Share:

- Your name
- Program you are with
- How are you empowering families to support **learning at home**



Learning Continues at Home - Building Partnerships with Families

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2019 WECA Conference



Session Objectives

- Recognize that working with families can positively impact student achievement
- Examine good practices they have in place to reach families and explore new avenues to enhance family partnerships
- Identify for implementation, three or more good practices to strengthen relationships with parents and empower their engagement

What ideas can you take back

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Magic Words

Families use **Magic** words like:

We are always here for You

I love You

Be Safe

What **Magic** words do You use with families?



How Often Should You Deliver Magic Words to Families?

- A. Depends on what they do
- B. More for insecure families
- C. With greater frequency than corrective statements
- D. Frequently when establishing a relationship
- E. All of the above

Never assume parent know or don't care



Parent or Partner--what is the difference?

Use the Letters in PARENT to Spell PARTNER

PARENT
|
PARTNER

Use the Letters in PARENT to Spell PARTNER

PARENT
| / | / \
PARTNER

What is the Difference?

YOU "R"
How "R" (are) you building Relationships that are partnerships?

Clarifying Terminology

**INVOLVEMENT
versus
ENGAGEMENT**



**PARENT
versus
FAMILY**



What good things are families in your program doing with their child?

1 minute report -Poll ? # 2

What good things are families in your program doing with their child?

Our GOAL is to make proven positive Parent / Child interactions family routines



Research Project: What strategies are effective in engaging families in supporting learning at home?

- 83 randomly assigned families
- 10 weeks: September-November, 2009; 1 activity shared each week
- 8 classrooms (Head Start and Public Pre-K programs)
- Pre/post-tests from families and staff
- 93% of the families completed post-test, 100% staff
- 3 Intervention levels
 - Suggestions
 - Suggestions with prompts
 - Shared resources

How would you like to be involved in your child's education? - Research Project Survey

Families reported being involved

Research

What practices are effective in engaging parents in supporting learning at home?
 Research project coordinated by:
 Bev Schumacher; Data Analysis completed by:
 Vonda Jump Norman, PhD, Utah State University

When asked: "How else would you like to be involved in your child's education?"

Over 1/3 of those responding said, any way possible/whatever the teacher recommends.

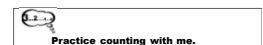
Research

What is the significance of this?

- Parents are doing meaningful activities
- Open ended response- over 1/3 of families will do what teacher recommends
- What does that mean to educators?



1. Wrist bracelet ---or bag tag



2. Mini-folded book/
offered in English or Bilingual




3. loaned out
Count On Me learning kit



Caution of the fine line

A delicate balance between

Suggesting / Sharing an idea  Nagging / Implying

Level 1 Suggestion	Level 2 Suggestion with Prompt	Level 3 Shared Resources
Were activities done? As reported by families	How involved were families As reported by teacher evaluation	Were activities effective As reported by teacher evaluation
1. 64%	1. Neutral to somewhat	1. 30%
2. 73%	2. Somewhat to very interested	2. 51%
3. 82%	3. Very interested	3. 70%

Summary of Findings:

When resources were provided to families they:


- Were more likely to do the activity
- Spent more time engaged in the activity
- Did the activities more often
- Involved more family members

Survey Suggests:


Educators are leaders in the role of INVITING families to support learning

They should:

1. Give suggestions
2. Provide suggestions with prompts
3. Share resources

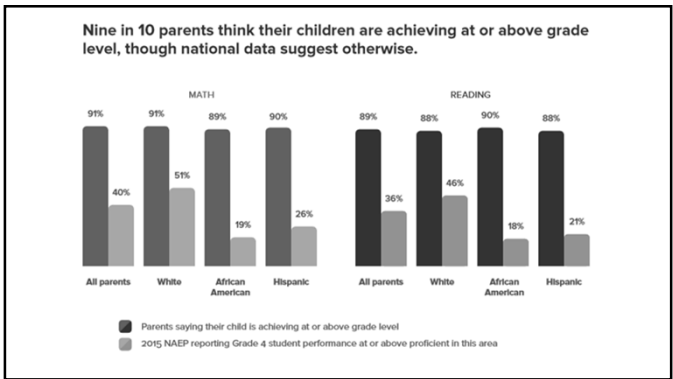


What are libraries asking parents to do?



Every Child Ready To Read promoted by American Library incorporates simple practices, based on research, to help parents and other caregivers they suggest:

- Talking
- Playing
- Singing
- Reading
- Writing



Learning Heroes Study: <https://bealearninghero.org/> What kind of information do parents want?

Information summarized and rephrased for early learners from:

SURVEY REPORT Parents: Unleashing Their Power & Potential --- AUGUST 2017

- Explanation of what children are expected to learn this year
- Activities to improve skills by areas in which child needs help
- One page outlining what child will learn this month
- Tips to get help if your child is struggling
- Guidelines of what child needs to know to be ready for the next level
- Guidance and support to do home activities (home work)
- Guidance to understanding testing/evaluations and what it means to THEIR child
- Drive time activities
- Guide for talking with child's teacher during conferences
- Opportunities for grandparents or other family members to be part of school activities

Programs can engage families as partners by:

- 1-- Equipping parents with **information /communication**
- 2-- Encouraging **activities** using resources families have in their homes and enriching **home learning** with no or low cost resources
- 3-- Providing **take-home** props
- 4-- Doing **make-and-take** events
- 5-- Hosting **special events**

Equip parents with information that supports learning/communication


What is your most effective family engagement communication strategy?

1 minute report - Poll ? # 3

Equip parents with information that supports learning

- Connect in the format that works for each family – **VARIETY OF APPROACHES**

- Focus on THEIR child
- Like medicine/ as needed-over time-in small doses
- Face-to-face is strongest
- Focus on families with greater needs

Caption pictures:
Learning and sharing

sticker

Read together...
Learn juntos...
Take time to read to your child.
Dedique tiempo para leerle a su niño.

Practice counting with me.

Wristband or bag tag

1 minute reports

- What resource might families **have in their homes**? Poll ? # 4
- What **repurposed materials** can be added to support home learning? Poll ? # 5
- What **low cost** items might be shared? Poll ? # 6

Encourage activities using resources families have in their homes / add low cost props when needed


- What is available?
- Ask parents to save resources
- Add repurposed resources



Provide take-home props


Make a birthday bag!

Why share "props"?




- Having resources ready for use gives families the power to put into action an activity and have a use-enjoy-learn opportunity they otherwise might not have put together
- When resources are shared to students their excitement increases the chance of it being used
- A combination of materials addresses different learning styles (visual, auditory, manipulative)
- Sharing resources clearly communicates that programs want families to support LEARNING AT HOME – **YES they do come back!** -staff members need to play a role in maintaining them
- Not all families are resource rich

Learning Props kits:



Games:
English or Bilingual (Spanish-English)
Each title has game, book, dice, movers and Home Practice Page
11 titles

Books:
English or Bilingual (Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, or Hmong labels)




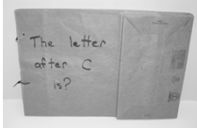

What goes in a kit?



Purpose or learning goal
Literacy piece
Something fun supporting skill
List of pieces shared (limit to as few as possible)
Guidance of how to use it
Evaluation or user feedback
Expectations (Does it get returned? Where? When?)
Information to dig deeper
Container/ wrap...

Do make-and-takes

- Use resources family has access to
- Making gives ownership and allows personalizing for learner
- Odds of being used are 😊
- Budget friendly

What are some family events that have been successful for your program?

1 minute report - Poll ? # 7

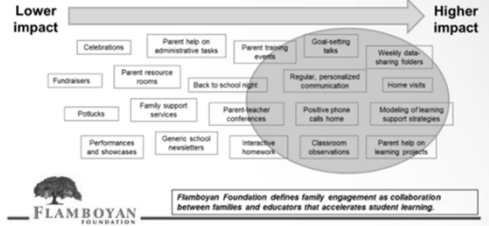
Host special events:

- Celebrations
- Transitions
- Showcasing

- ★ Identify staff members who need to be networking with families
- ★ Station learning events are powerful



Our Perspective on Relative Impact of Family Engagement Strategies on Student Learning



Flamboyan Foundation defines family engagement as collaboration between families and educators that accelerates student learning.

What ideas can you take back?

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- Share an idea / activity ... that inspired you in this session that would work in your program.

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Game Sets for your teams review - Selling @ cost

Complete this page if you want to order a game set for a 30-day review

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