Introduce and Share

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

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

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?

Learning Continues at Home - Building Partnerships with Families

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What ideas can you take back

1.
2.
3.

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.

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.

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

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

Level 1 Suggestion
Level 2 Suggestion with Prompt
Level 3 Shared Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Were activities done?</th>
<th>How involved were families</th>
<th>Were activities effective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As reported by families</td>
<td>As reported by teacher evaluation</td>
<td>As reported by teacher evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. 64%</td>
<td>1. Neutral to somewhat</td>
<td>1. 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 73%</td>
<td>2. Somewhat to very interested</td>
<td>2. 51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 82%</td>
<td>3. Very interested</td>
<td>3. 70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

![Graph: Nine in 10 parents think their children are achieving at or above grade level, though national data suggest otherwise.](image)
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 in 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
- 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

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

Why share “props”?

Learning Props kits:

What goes in a kit?

Do make-and-takes

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

- Celebrations
- Transitions
- Showcasing

Identify staff members who need to be networking with families.

Station learning events are powerful.

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.

Stop at my table in the exhibit hall for a FREE Book.