



## Objectives

- UNDERSTAND** Understand the value and importance of dynamic partnerships with diverse families to diminish prejudice and enrich program community.
- IDENTIFY** Identify techniques to support and engage culturally & linguistically diverse families to improve the home-to-program connections.
- ACQUIRE** Acquire partnership strategies to address race, cultural differences, and similarities of humankind to avoid any communication pitfalls and build strong family-program partnerships.

## Family Partnerships Make a Difference




What We Know  
Why It Matters

### RELATED RESEARCH: Positive Relationships with Diverse Families

- Strong family engagement
- More stimulating home environments
- Culturally and linguistically responsive providers

### NAEYC's Position Statement

Recommendations for Early Childhood Educators: Families



### ENGAGING with Supportive Behaviors

1. Collaborate
2. Actively Listening
3. Assist
4. Empathize
5. Identify their value
6. Identify their goals and interests
7. Create positive interactions

### CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY Responsive Family Engagement

Honors the role of families' culture, language, and experience.

### THE INFLUENCE of Cultures and Languages

Cultural beliefs inform decisions

Cultures shape our views on key issues

Home languages shape the identities of children

### CULTURAL Perspectives

Learn about families' beliefs, values, and priorities

Know what is important to families

Understand your perspectives

## What's the Difference between Engagement & Partnerships

### Partnerships with Diverse Families



Tools for the Classroom

### PARTNERSHIPS with New Immigrant Families

1. Celebrate the families' cultures and languages
2. Identify families' strengths
3. Communicate in families' languages
4. Provide opportunities for questions
5. Build partnerships with community organizations

### Key Strategies for Reciprocal Partnerships

1. Respect the uniqueness of each family system
2. Take the lead in building relationships with all families
3. Develop a personalized relationship with families
4. Acknowledge a shared commitment
5. Forge trust

### Key Strategies for Reciprocal Partnerships

6. Encourage reciprocal communication
7. Communicate in culturally appropriate ways
8. Recruit staff who view diversity as an asset
9. Create Alliances With Cultural Guides
10. Evaluate Process and Outcomes

### Understanding YOUR Family Engagement & Partnership Practices

Keep Family Engagement & Partnership Front and Center

Program Questionnaire

Family-School Relationships Survey

(Panorama Education and the Harvard Graduate School of Education)

### The Power of Partnerships FAMILY SURVEY

### Welcoming Environment for ALL FAMILIES

We Must:

- Be aware of and responsive to families' individual needs
- Support children's use of their home languages
- Value children's home cultures
- Use specific teaching strategies to help children become successful

### STRATEGIES to Involve Families in Young Children's Development and Learning

Head Start Program Performance Standard

### STRATEGIES to Involve Families in Young Children's Development and Learning

Offer activities that support dual language

Share information and resources

Focus attention on the child's strengths

Use observations and data

Offer volunteer opportunities

Model and suggest

### BEYOND the Bake Sale

**PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM:**  
Advanced

**OPEN-DOOR-PROGRAM:**  
Proficient

**COME-IF-WE-CALL PROGRAM:**  
Basic

**FORTRESS PROGRAM:**  
Below Basic

### Challenges

#### Challenges to Effective Family Partnerships

**1**  
Lack of Opportunities for PROGRAMS to Build the Capacity for Partnerships

**2**  
Lack of Opportunities for FAMILIES to Build the Capacity for Partnerships

#### CHALLENGES to Effective Family Partnerships

1. Bad First Impressions
2. Poor Communication
3. Past Experiences
4. Family Members' Lack of Self-Confidence
5. Staffs' Lack of Confidence
6. History of Discrimination
7. Differing Expectations of Parent-Teacher Roles
8. Lack of Confidence in the Program

#### Addressing Differences

- Promote Understanding of Different Cultures
- Recognize and Address Class and Language Differences
- Address Issues of Race and Racism
- Welcome and Respect All Families

### Breaking Down Barriers

All families, no matter what their income, race, education, language, or culture, want their children to do well in school — and can make an important contribution to their children's learning.

#### What We Know About the Children's & Families' Roles

CHILDREN	FAMILIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop in the context of families and communities that are characterized by diversity</li> <li>▪ Benefit when professionals understand and respect the family</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Families are essential in helping children succeed</li> <li>▪ New strategies are required based on the family's culture and race</li> </ul>

### BENEFITS to the Program

- Creates advocates for the program.
- Creates a positive reputation for the program within the community.
- Increase staff morale.
- Provides opportunities for families to discuss needs and preferences.
- Acquire better understanding of families' cultures and diversity.

### MORE BENEFITS to the Program

- Connects instruction to a child's background knowledge, interests, and culture.
- Identify appropriate accommodations or supports.
- Empower families to support academic goals at home.
- Develop effective and consistent methods for addressing behavior.

### ADOPT & Honor

"When people... change to a growth mindset, they change from a judge-and-be-judged framework to a learn-and-help-learn framework. Their commitment is to growth, and growth takes plenty of time, effort, and mutual support."

*-Carol Dweck*

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## NEXT webinar

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? Culturally Responsive Teaching & Learning in Early Childhood Education

### A Framework for Using Literature with Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Young Children

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 @ 1:00 PM ET



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