

Building a Culture of Family Engagement through Responsive Communication

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Competencies

- ▶ Describe the challenges with communication in today's early childhood education programs
- ▶ Explore strategies for positive, strong, verbal and non-verbal communication
- ▶ Set responsible expectations for two-way communication with today's families



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Creating the Cultural Fabric of Family Engagement



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Who are our Families?



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Respect for Families



Core Values

- Appreciate childhood as a unique and valuable stage of the human life cycle
- Base our work on knowledge of how children develop and learn
- Appreciate and support the bond between the child and family
- Recognize that children are best understood and supported in the context of family, culture,* community, and society
- Respect the dignity, worth, and uniqueness of each individual (child, family member, and colleague)
- Respect diversity in children, families, and colleagues
- Recognize that children and adults achieve their full potential in the context of relationships that are based on trust and respect

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Daily Communication is Key!



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- ▶ Is the information about typical child behaviors and development?
- ▶ Is the information about typical child development that is showing up more consistently than today?
- ▶ Are other children involved in the information you plan on sharing with parents?
- ▶ Do you have positive and constructive information to share?



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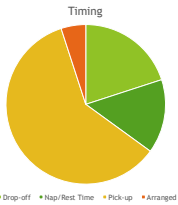
Daily Communication is Key!

- ▶ What do you gain by sharing this information with parents?
- ▶ What can you do to support the child based on this information? What are you already doing?
- ▶ Why are you sharing this information right now, today? (assuming it does not involve injury to another child)



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Timing is Critical!



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Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication



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Technology Dos and Don'ts

Email

Texting

Phone

Website

Apps

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Proactive Forms of Communication



Family Engagement

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Barriers Still Exist...



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Common Barriers to Overcome

1. Parents have varied knowledge bases on parenting and child development
2. Families may not have the resources to make different or better choices
3. Parents may be overwhelmed with information and expectations

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