

Welcome!

2022
**Disability Services
Coordinator Institute**
Our Team, Our Goal:
Belonging & Inclusion

While you are waiting,
download resources from
the resource widget.

Resource List

- Institute Agenda
- Path Handout

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Office of Head Start
National Centers

January 25, 2021

Effective Strategies for Family Communication and Engagement

Host
Katie Miller

Host
Yvette Dominguez

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Platform Features


Media Player Question & Answers FAQs (English & Spanish) Certificates of Attendance

Help Slide Deck Resource List Closed Captioning

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Learning Goals



1. Understand common experiences of families of children with disabilities
2. Identify relationship-building, engagement, and communication strategies to support family partnerships

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Understanding Family Experiences: Effective Practice


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Parent Family Community Engagement Framework

Families as Lifelong Educators:
Families observe, guide, promote, and participate in the everyday learning of their children home and in their community.

Family Engagement in Transitions:
Parents and families encourage and advocate for their child's learning and development as they transition to our learning environments.

Strengths-Based Attitudes:
Families have expertise about their child and their family.




Positive & Goal-Oriented Relationships			
Equity, Inclusiveness, Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness			
PROGRAM FOUNDATIONS	PROGRAM IMPACT AREAS	FAMILY OUTCOMES	CHILD OUTCOMES
Program Leadership	Program Environment	Family Well-being	Children are:
Professional Development	Family Partnerships	Positive Parent-Child Relationships	Safe
Continuous Learning and Quality Improvement	Teaching in Learning Community Partnerships	Families as Lifelong Educators	Healthy and well
	Access and Continuity	Families as Leaders	Learning and developing
		Family Engagement in Transition	Engaged in positive relationships with family members, caregivers, and other children
		Family Connections to Peers and Community	Ready for school
		Families as Advocates and Leaders	Successful in school and life

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DEC Recommended Practice F1

Practitioners build trusting and respectful partnerships with the family through interactions that are sensitive and responsive to cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic diversity.




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DEC Recommended Practice F3

Practitioners are responsive to the family's concerns, priorities, and changing life circumstances.




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DEC Recommended Practice F7


Practitioners work with the family to identify, access, and use formal and informal resources and supports to achieve family-identified outcomes or goals.




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Framework for Effective Practice



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**Families of Children with Disabilities:
What do we know?**



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Family adaptation is a process that occurs over time.



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**Family Adaptation:
Emotional Reactions**

- Relief
- Guilt or anger
- Grief
- Lost time

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Check In

Are these emotional reactions similar to what you see?

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Family Adaptations: Individual Outcomes



- Isolation
- Emotional distress
- Parenting stress
- Physical symptoms

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Differential Response and Adaptation



Mediating factors


- Financial strain
- Child care
- Support services
- Isolation
- Social support
- Child characteristics

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Family Support Priorities

What priority or need for support do you see?



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Family Support Priorities



- Accurate, accessible, individualized information
- Emotional and social support
- Resources

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Family Support Priorities Continued




- Access to services
- Advocacy

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Family Experiences During Pandemic


Disproportionately greater challenges

- Higher rates of:
 - Financial hardship
 - Emotional distress
 - Health care disparities
- Less access to emotional and social support
- Less access to remote service delivery



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Questions to Consider



How am I incorporating family assets?

What is important to the family now?

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Family Engagement

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Effective Family Engagement

- Relationship-based
- Ongoing
- Responsive to strengths and needs of families
- Program-wide
- Collaborative
- Supportive of children's growth, development, and learning




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Characteristics of Relationship-Based Practices

- Reflect on family perspective
- Value family passion
- Focus on family-child relationship
- Support competence
- Reflect on your perspective
- Observe and describe child's behavior

Relationship-based practices promote engagement with all families. When we engage with a family we form a relationship on behalf of their child.




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Relationship-Based Practices



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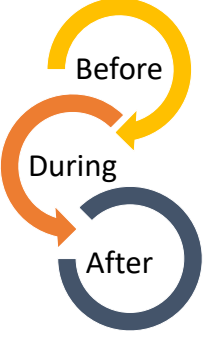

Communication Strategies



- Check in about preferred language
- Honor each family's culture, language, and experiences
- Listen to each family's story

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Connected Conversations



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Connected Conversations




- Prepare the physical/virtual environment
- Learn about your own perspectives
- Learn about the family's perspectives
- Consider the family's cultures and structure

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Connected Conversations



- Be a guide from the side
- Ask permission and explain why
- Be flexible
- Be present
- Listen carefully and use silence

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Connected Conversations

After

Follow up
Connect to community resources and peer support when the family is ready

- Be flexible
- Be present
- Listen carefully and use silence

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Reflection

Connected Conversations

- What strategies or information from connected conversations can you apply to your work?
- What is one concrete first step you will take to implement this strategy?

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Thank You!

Reminders

- PATH planning session
- OnDemand resources
- Recordings available in 24hrs
- Certificate and evaluation
- Share your inclusion stories at #HeadStartInclusion

For more information contact:
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