



Quality Child Care Niagara

Webinar: Fostering Family Engagement

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Agenda

- Welcome and Webinar Introduction
- What Does Positive Family Engagement Look Like?
- Strategies to Develop Family Engagement
- Reflective Questions
- Action Plan



Positive Family Engagement

- Relationship between families and educators.
- Communicate with children and families by being equitable, inclusive and respectful of diversity.
- Creating an environment that welcomes families into the space, inviting their perspectives and providing opportunities for families to participate in meaningful ways on an ongoing basis, supports their sense of belonging.



Positive Family Engagement

- A shared view of families as competent and capable, curious, and rich in experience informs our relationships with families and has a significant impact on children.
- When we recognize and build on the strengths of families and the love they have for their children, everyone benefits.

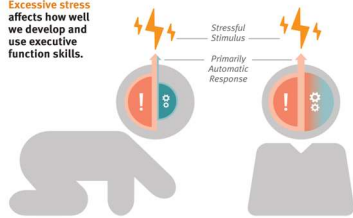


Positive Family Engagement

- Relationships and interactions set a solid foundation for brain architecture.
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are negative, stressful, traumatizing events that occur before the age of 18 and affects health risk across the lifespan.
- Knowing the research and science of early brain development can help reorganize policies and programs.
- Being trauma-informed is to increase knowledge about trauma and the impact it has by creating connection, sharing knowledge, and resources.



Excessive stress affects how well we develop and use executive function skills.



Early Childhood
Severe, frequent stress redirects children's brain development away from planning and impulse control toward building the capacity for rapid threat response.

Adulthood
Excessive stress overloads adults' ability to use executive function and intentional self-regulation skills, leaving them to rely primarily on automatic responses.

Centre on the Developing Child Harvard University



"Fostering good relationships with children and their families is the single most important priority for educators in early years programs. A significant body of research indicates that positive, caring and respectful relationships are the foundation for optimal learning, development, health, and well-being."

*How Does Learning Happen?
Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*



Reflective Question

- If you were to use **one** word to describe what family engagement means, what would it be?



Strategies to Develop Family Engagement

- Reflecting on your own beliefs as an educator
 - Engage in culturally sensitive communication and respect differences in family structure (i.e., "families" instead of "parents")
 - What am I doing to build trusting relationships with families?
 - How do I ensure families, staff, and children have a voice in establishing a common goal?



Strategies to Develop Family Engagement

- Building trust
 - Stay positive by showing respect, integrity, competence and personal regard towards each family
 - Think about strategies in meeting the needs of second language learners and their families
 - What do I expect from the families? What do families expect from me?



Strategies to Develop Family Engagement

- Communication
 - Have conversation to receive their perspective
 - Being supportive and professional
 - Create mentoring opportunities
 - Some conversations may need to be planned ahead
 - Explore and discuss potential solutions and strategies together



“When families are provided with the opportunity to share information about their children, such as their temperament, interests or the challenges they face, [educators] deepen their relationships with children and strengthen their strategies to support positive interactions and self-regulation.”

College of Early Childhood Educators



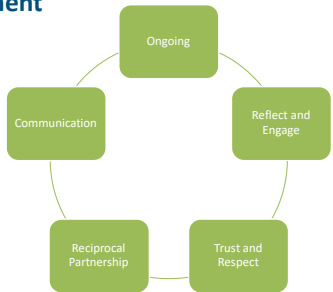


Reflective Questions

- What are some ways we can help families to experience a sense of belonging in our program?
- How can we engage with families as co-learners about and with their children?



Key Considerations in Fostering Family Engagement







Action Plan

- What new strategies can be put into practice to strengthen relationship with the families?



Resources

- *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/HowLearningHappens.pdf>
- College of Early Childhood Educators Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice
https://www.college-ece.ca/en/Documents/Code_and_Standards_2017.pdf
- Think, Feel, Act: Lessons from Research about Young Children
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/research.html>
- Centre on the Developing Child Harvard University
<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/>
- ABCs of Family Engagement
<https://wida.wisc.edu/sites/default/files/resource/ABCs-Family-Engagement.pdf>



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