

"CREATING THE ROAD TO A CHILD'S SUCCESS"

PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT LEADING TO PARENT/PROVIDER PARTNERSHIPS

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May you be blessed with the belief that you can make a difference in the world so that you will do those things that others say cannot be done!

Franciscan Benediction

Parents can open our eyes to a new perspective on how to more effectively and successfully provide quality services and support to families.



WORKSHOP AGENDA



- ❖ Introductions
- ❖ Parent Engagement and Parent Involvement
- ❖ Child Care Centers and the Protective Factors
- ❖ Connecting to Parents
- ❖ Parent Engagement, Involvement, & Leadership Opportunities
- ❖ Encouraging Parents to be Part of the Decision Making Process
- ❖ Collaboration with the Community
- ❖ Sustaining Parent Engagement and Involvement



INTRODUCTIONS



What is your name?

Your agency and position?

What do you hope to gain from today's training?

Children who receive early education services are 24% more likely to own a home.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent engagement and involvement leads to parents being actively, creatively, and resourcefully involved in promoting and developing the well being of their children, families and their communities. Through such involvement, parents can build interdependent relationships with family service providers and other family-focused agencies that seek to enhance the quality of life for families and children.



BENEFITS FOR PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT

PARENTS

- Improves services for families.
- Provides opportunities to effect meaningful change.
- Provides opportunities to network with other families.
- Models community involvement and empowerment.

CHILD CARE CENTERS/AGENCIES

- Enhances the relationship between families and providers.
- Increases responsiveness to families and identified needs.
- Improves the quality of programs and services.
- Keeps programs relevant and realistic.

Parental involvement is consistently associated with higher levels of achievement.



EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND THE PROTECTIVE FACTORS

PROGRAM STRATEGIES

Facilitates friendship and support.
 Strengthens parenting.
 Responsive to family crisis.
 Links families to services and support.
 Facilitates children's social and emotional development
 Observes and responds to early warning signs of child abuse and neglect.
 Values and supports parents.

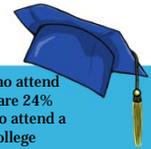
PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Parent Resilience
 Social Connections
 Knowledge of Child Development
 Concrete support in times of need
 Nurturing and Attachment



CONNECTING TO PARENTS

It is essential for agencies/child care centers to connect and build positive relationships with parents. Agencies/child care centers should have a clear vision of how to effectively engage and involve parents. The vision for parent engagement will set the tone for a positive relationship with parents and the expectation parents have for being involved.

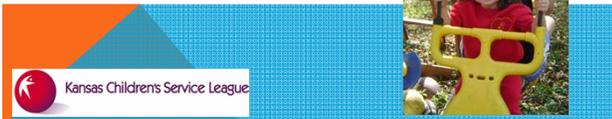


Children who attend preschool are 24% more likely to attend a 4 year college



CONNECTING SUCCESSFULLY WITH PARENTS

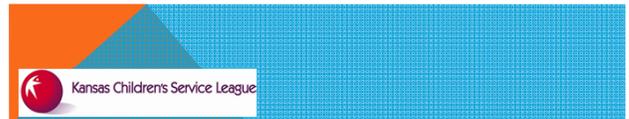
- The mission should reflect the importance of parent engagement, and establish a foundation for parent engagement activities.
- There should be a well-planned program for parent engagement.
- Policies and procedures should be in place to maximize parent engagement in activities and programs.
- There should be a dedicated committee of teachers, administrators and parents that helps to implement, evaluate and continually improved parent engagement and involvement activities.
- Staff members should be provided with opportunities to learn how to successfully engage parents.



ENGAGING PARENTS

School staff can build parent's leadership skills, decision making skills and parenting skills by successful engaging parents to be actively involved in the parent opportunities and activities. If staff can enlist parents to lead and organize parent engagement activities, other parents are much more likely to attend and be involved.

Involve Parents in Parent Engagement Opportunities!



ENGAGING PARENTS

- **Provide parenting support and networking.**
- **Provide a variety of volunteer opportunities.**
- **Provide role modeling and mentoring opportunities.**
- **Encourage parents to be part of the decision making process.**
- **Collaborate with the community.**

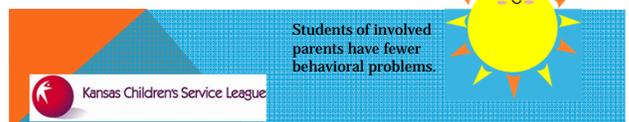


EXAMPLES OF PARENT ENGAGEMENT, INVOLVEMENT, AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Encourage parents to serve as mentors, coaches and monitors for school activities.
- Involve parents in helping write grants.
- Enlist parents to coordinate phone call reminders, provide training, organize volunteer activities and recognition events.
- Conduct Parent Cafes and have parents be leaders in the Cafes.
- Provide the opportunity for parents to lead support groups.
- Provide parents the opportunity to attend the Kansas Parent Leadership Conference
- Enlist parents to share their stories of advocating for their children and overcoming difficult situations.



Students of involved parents have fewer behavioral problems.



PARENT CAFÉS AND CIRCLE OF PARENTS® SUPPORT GROUPS

PARENT CAFÉ

The Parent Café is a parent- led empowerment activity where parents have the opportunity to share their visions, opinions, future opportunities, successes and insight into how agencies, schools, child care centers and the community can provide higher quality services, education and support for families.

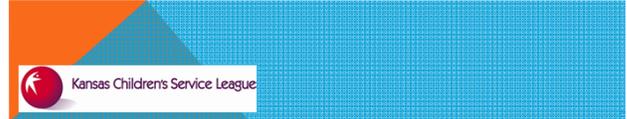
CIRCLE OF PARENT® SUPPORT GROUP

The Circle of Parents® Support Groups are a network of support groups which are parent- led and parent directed. Based on an evidence-based mutual self-help support group model, the support group is an opportunity for parents to meet, discuss issues and concerns, and share information and network.



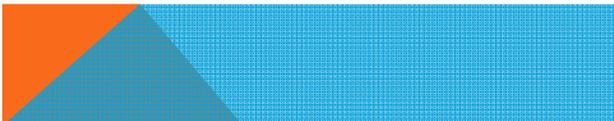
WHAT IS A PARENT CAFÉ?

The Parent Café is a round table discussion where parents have the opportunity to share their visions, opinions, future opportunities, successes and insight into how agencies, schools, child care centers and the community can provide higher quality services, education and support for families.



WHAT WILL I NEED TO HOST A CAFÉ?

- A meeting space to hold 10-20 parents
- Colorful table cloths
- Table toys
- Discussion questions
- Snacks or a meal (Optional)



PARENTS AS PART OF THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Encouraging parents to be a part of the decision making process provides the opportunity to hear information and suggestions from the parent's perspective. Parent insights, beliefs, concerns, and issues can bring a new perspective on how program services and supports can better provide quality services and support.



EXAMPLES OF DECISION MAKING OPPORTUNITIES

- Engage and involve parents and community members in making decisions about activities and programs.
- Involve parents in decisions when developing school policies, emergency and safety plans and safety messages.
- Create policies that require parent representation on decision-making groups such as school health councils.
- Provide parents the opportunity to be involved in reviewing school policies.
- Establish a Parent Advisory Council to be responsible for providing guidance and direction to parent engagement and involvement in the child care centers programs.



COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMUNITY

Child care centers can help with engaging parents in services and activities from the community by coordinating and gaining information from community based organizations, civic organizations, social service organization and faith based organizations. By working with community organizations, child care centers can connect parents to the services and support they made need to strengthen the family.



EXAMPLES OF HOW TO PARTNER WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- Invite community partners to come and talk with parents about their services and supports for families.
- Create an agreement with community partners to help develop and support child care programs and activities.
- Create a system that links to community resources, activities and events.
- Collaborate with community partners to provide services at the child care center that will meet the needs of the families.
- Link family members to school and community programs that promote services that strengthen families.
- Make the child care center available to partners to host events for the families.

Sharing ideas and working collaboratively saves time and money for programs.



SUSTAINING PARENT INVOLVEMENT

If parents are engaged from the beginning, they are more likely to stay engaged. One important strategy is for child care administrators and staff to identify challenges that keep parents from being connected and engaged. It is also important for child care centers to have a dedicated team or committee that oversees parent engagement.



SUGGESTIONS TO SUSTAIN PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- Survey parents to see what days/times are best for them.
- Schedule more than one meeting and activity opportunity.
- Schedule meetings on Saturdays.
- Host meetings off child care center campus.
- Offer a variety of opportunities and flexible times for parents to volunteer.
- Provide child care.
- Provide food and refreshments.
- Award door prizes – parents love to get items to take home to the child.
- Make meetings fun.
- Have parents take a lead role in planning, implementing, and hosting meetings – PARENT LEADERSHIP!



PARENT ENGAGEMENT, PARENT INVOLVEMENT, AND PARENT LEADERSHIP

“The Yellow Brick Road to Parent Engagement, Parent Involvement and Parent Leadership is a winding path of adventure, challenge and wonderment which leads to the realization of what wonderful skills you possess – Knowledge, Courage and a Heart filled with Passion!”

- B J Gore



THANK YOU!

The quality work and service you do for the children and their families has great impact! We greatly appreciate all you do!

