



Family Engagement

Session Goals



YOU FOR YOUTH

- Understand the value of family engagement.
- Investigate potential roles within family engagement.
- Begin to formulate a plan to improve family engagement.





Family engagement is...

- A culturally responsive approach to relationship building.
- A plan for connecting with a child's key family members.
- A collaborative process of shared responsibility and mutual respect.



What does family engagement look like?



- Practicing communication that is responsive to family needs.
- Hosting collaborative activities with families in mind.
- Offering community resources and family support.



Why Family Engagement?



YOU FOR YOUTH

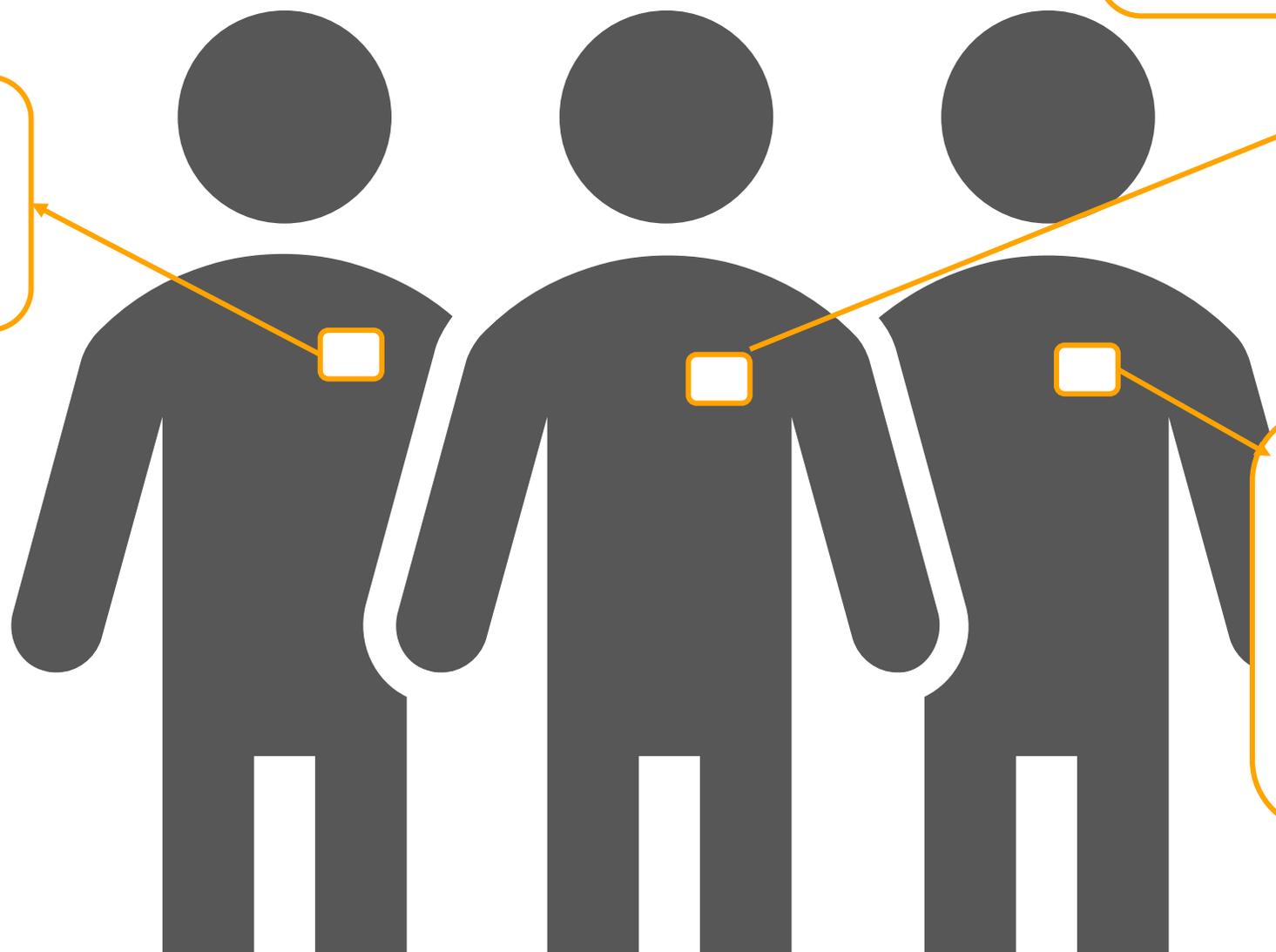


- Benefits development of youth
- Creates a system of trust
- Provides new experiences



Your Role

Greeter



Outreach Coordinator

Social Media Specialist



Obstacles



- Transportation issues
- Time and availability constraints
- Cultural or religious differences
- Language barriers
- Discomfort with educational environments



Communication



When communicating with families

- Be timely and informative.
- Show sensitivity and compassion.
- Ask open-ended and clarifying questions.



Communication: Understanding Cultures





Communication: Written Media

- Be purposeful, clear and positive in your tone.
- Be sensitive and respectful to all distinct groups within your community.
- Translate media into other languages.
- Seek approval.



Communication: Social Media



- Monitor traffic and postings on social media accounts closely.
- Be thoughtful of privacy and personal boundaries.
- Limit access.

Communication: Welcoming Environments



What do families experience when...

- They enter the building and walk around?
- They speak with staff members?
- They read program pamphlets, guidebooks or handouts?
- They engage with the program on social media?





Creating Engaging Activities



- Skill-based engagement activities
 - GED or high school equivalency preparation
 - Nutrition and healthy living courses

- Shared activities with students and families
 - Cyber safety workshops
 - Family college tours



Creating Engaging Activities



- School and community linking activities
 - Food, clothing and supplies drives
 - Free Wi-Fi zones in the community

- Leadership opportunities
 - Serving on the program team
 - Being a community advocate



Families as Resources



- How can our families support and enrich the program further?
- How can families help each other?
- How can we use our families to network with other families in the community?

Activity Planning



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Family Engagement Activity Types

Below is a list of the five family engagement activity types. Included is the definition, activity examples, why the activity is important and a tip!

Skill-Based Activity

Definition: Skill-based activities help adults attain new knowledge and skills.

Activities might include: GED preparation; ESL lessons or practice; workforce development seminars (e.g., resume writing, interviewing); nutrition and healthy living classes; courses on best practices in childrearing; and workshops on navigating schools, districts and educational programs.

Why skill-based activities are important: As families gain knowledge and skills, they become better equipped to support and advocate for their children, and more confident in their abilities. Also, their involvement in self-development, personal growth and lifelong learning sets a good example and makes them good role models for their children.

Tip: Carefully design activities that teach new skills or develop talents to ensure that they don't make families feel "singled out," embarrassed or stigmatized.

Enrichment Activity

Definition: Enrichment activities provide experiences that adults find engaging, stimulating and enjoyable.

Activities might include: Painting, jewelry making, Zumba, group attendance at a cultural or sports event.

Why enrichment activities are important: Enrichment activities can spark new interests or hobbies, awaken dormant talents and build social bonds as families have enjoyable experiences together in a relaxed atmosphere. These activities encourage friendship, collaboration and laughter. As adults build relationships with other families and with program staff, they will be more likely to attend additional program activities.

Tip: Involving families in selecting, planning or implementing enrichment activities can help



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Family Activity Guide

Directions: Families can support their children's education while spending quality time together, by engaging in learning activities together. The following are some activities that students and their families can try at home.

1. Scavenger Hunt

Creating a scavenger hunt with everyday items is a simple process. Start by picking a place like the backyard, your neighborhood, or a local park. While walking around, look for items and create a list. For each item, think of two to three clues. Then, give your child the clues as you walk together. For example, you may ask your child to find different objects based on color or shape or items used on their use, such as safety items around town. Consider giving your child a camera or a list to keep track of their finds. After your hunt, discuss with your child what all of the items are common and the great critical thinking they did to figure out all the clues. Even better! Let 'd make a scavenger hunt for you.

Chefs

er is a great way to explore math and science as a family. Look up recipes; find one making. Shop for your ingredients together and then spend time in the kitchen Build in opportunities for practicing reading and math by having your child to you or practice measuring with a variety of measuring spoons and cups. how their learning in action in real life! Enjoy your hard work by eating in a outside or on a blanket in another room. Younger children will be excited in and older children will appreciate some ownership over the process. Understand the importance of budgeting, purchasing, and measuring e, ask your child to write about the experience.

ularly doing good deeds. Some great volunteer ideas for

erson
sion people or to children in hospitals

Surveys and Family Feedback



Family Satisfaction Survey

Directions: Use this survey to better understand how satisfied families are with the services, supports and overall program that your organization provides. Adapt this survey to fit your program.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey about your child's 21st CCLC program. All responses will be kept confidential.

1. How many children do you have attending the 21st CCLC program?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- More than 3

2. At which of the following sites does your child (or children) CURRENTLY attend the 21st CCLC program? Choose all that apply.

- ABC Elementary School
- XYZ Elementary School
- ABC Middle School

3. In what grade level(s), are your children? Choose all that apply:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PK | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 th |
| <input type="checkbox"/> K | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 th |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 st | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 th |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 th |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 th |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 th | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 th |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 th | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 th |

4. How many years has your child (or children) attended the 21st CCLC after-school program?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- More than 3

5. How many days a week does your child (or children) CURRENTLY attend the 21st CCLC program?

- Once a week
- Twice a week
- Three times a week
- Four times a week
- Every day

Next Steps



YOU FOR YOUTH



- What is one change you can make immediately that will positively impact family engagement?
- What is one program change or activity idea that you are excited to see happen in the future?