



# Welcome to Webinar 5!

## INVESTING IN FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

### Important Information:

- To receive a Certificate of Participation the participant must attend at least ***five*** webinars. After participating in the webinars, participants must send an email to ***y4y@seiservices.com*** requesting a certificate. ***Note: if you have any questions or concerns, please email y4y@seiservices.com.***
- If you are sharing your computer screen with several people who also would like a certificate, please add all names in the chat box.
- A PDF of all PowerPoint presentations and webinar recordings will be included on the series webpage (link will be sent in the chat box).
- Please complete the feedback form for each webinar you participate in, and join the discussion board!





# INVESTING IN FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

New Grantee Series: Part 5  
August 29, 2018



This presentation was produced under  
U.S. Department of Education  
Contract No. ED-ESE-14-D-0008  
with Synergy Enterprises, Inc.

The views expressed herein do not necessarily  
represent the positions or policies of  
the U.S. Department of Education.

No official endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education of  
any product, commodity, service, methodology, technique, or  
enterprise mentioned here is intended or should be inferred.

**DISCLAIMER**



# YOUR FACILITATORS



**Allyson Zalewski**

*Lead Training Specialist*



**Jennifer Conner**

*Education Specialist*



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



# AGENDA: WHAT TO EXPECT

- Six live webinars
- Interactive sessions
- Virtual Series webpage





# REVIEW

- Reviewed content from Introduction to 21st CCLC and Managing Your 21st CCLC Program
- Continuous Education
  - Building Your Program Team
  - Engaging with Stakeholders
  - Conducting a Needs Assessment
  - Intentionally Designing Activities
  - Recruiting and Retaining Quality Staff
  - Implementing with Fidelity



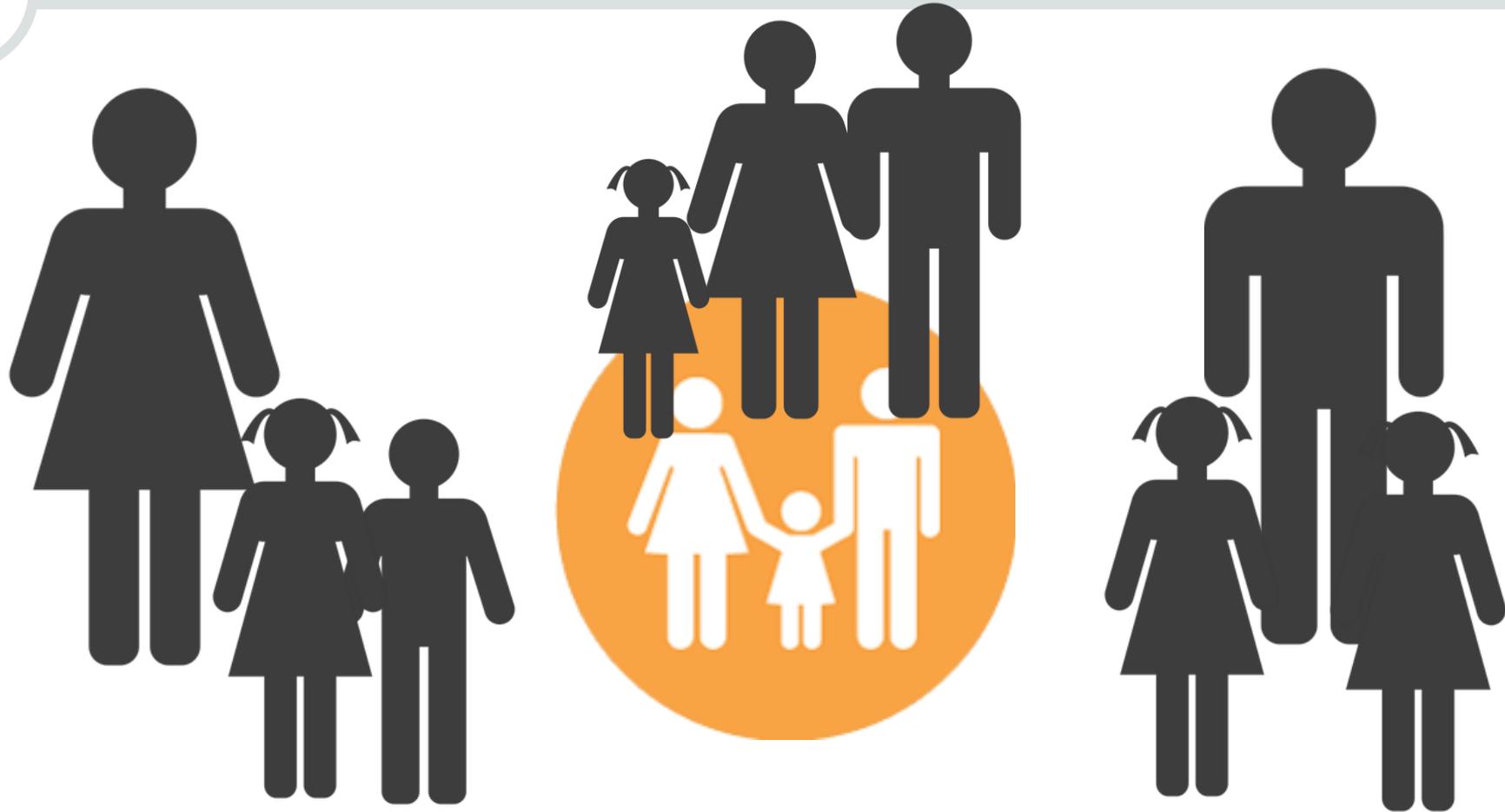
# SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Review the main components of strong family engagement practices
- Identify Y4Y resources that enhance family engagement efforts
- Develop strategies to improve family engagement in your program





# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT





# DEEPER QUESTIONS

- Do families believe their participation makes a difference?
- What policies are in place to make families feel welcome?
- What opportunities or resources are being offered for families, both inside your program and at home?





What We See

What We Can't See



# SIMILARITY ICEBERG

- Observable features
- Non-observable features

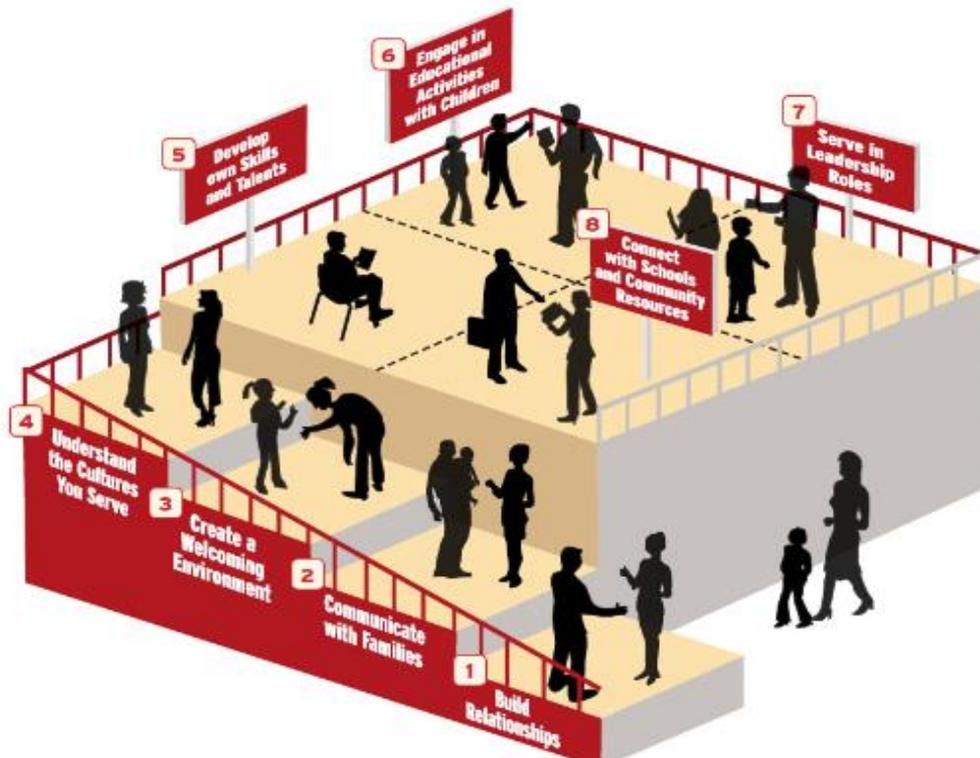




# OVERVIEW OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

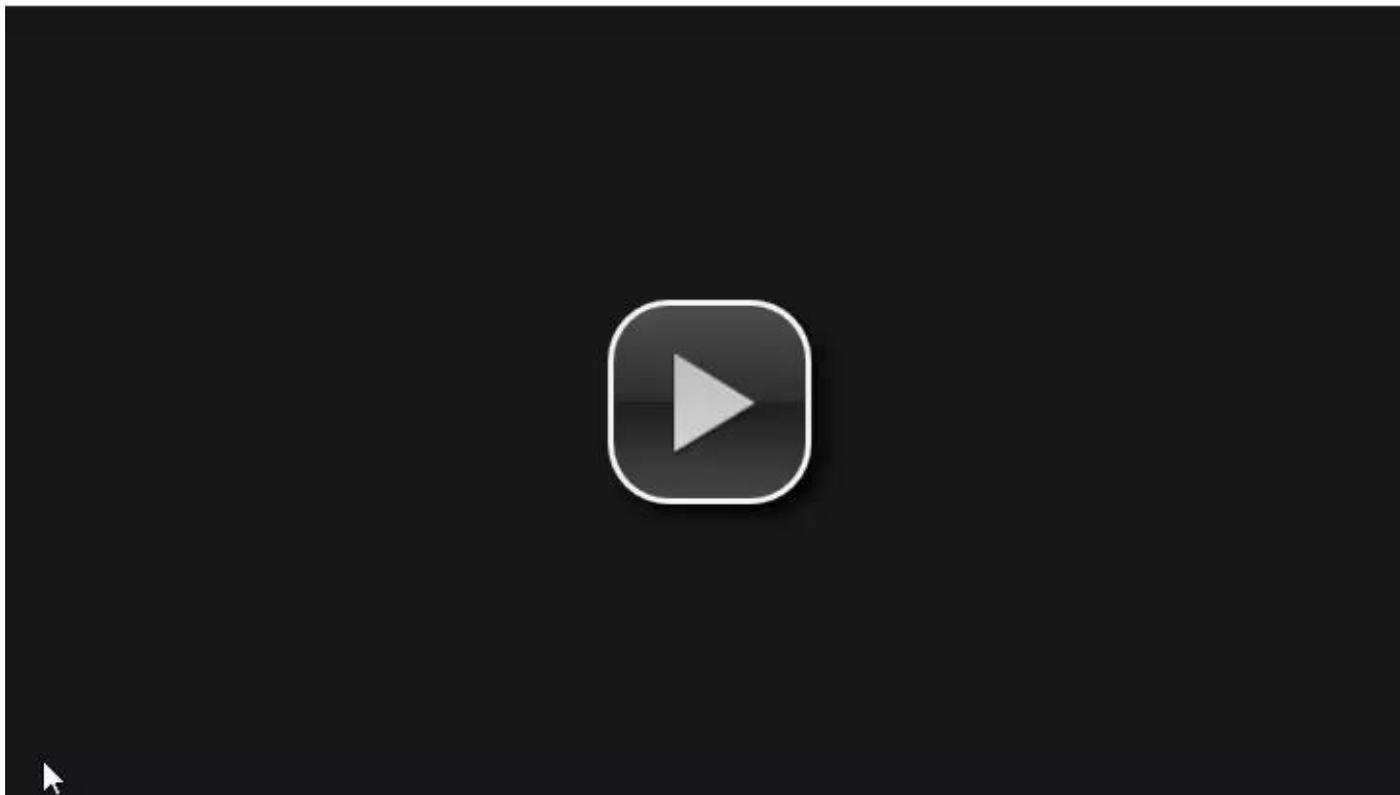
## Tip 4

Learn about the needs and interests of the community you serve





# BENEFITS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT





# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

## Challenges

Know Families

Involve Families

Support Families

Training Staff



# OVERCOMING CHALLENGES



- Read through the challenges
- Brainstorm possible underlying causes



## Overcoming Challenges to Family Engagement

Use this tool to explore common family engagement challenges, possible underlying causes, and potential solutions. The first few have been filled in, the others are blank to generate staff discussion.

Challenges	Possible underlying causes	Potential solutions
Forms sent home to be signed are never returned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Youth misplaces the form.</li><li>- Youth forgets to show it to family.</li><li>- Families don't understand the form.</li><li>- Family members work in the afternoon and evening and don't see youth until they are asleep.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Create a folder for important forms.</li><li>- Choose one day a week for important forms to go home so families know when to look for them.</li><li>- Translate the form into the appropriate languages and go over the form with youth so they can explain them to their family members.</li><li>- Send forms electronically or through the mail.</li></ul>
Only a few families attend open houses or other meetings related to the program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Families don't have easy access to transportation to the program site.</li><li>- Family members can't get time off from their jobs.</li><li>- Family members don't have people to look after their children.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Coordinating around bus schedules, providing transportation and having your event at a more central location are all ways to increase attendance.</li><li>- Plan events on weekends or repeat the event on different days and at different times to allow more families to attend.</li></ul>
Families never answer our phone calls and don't return them when we leave messages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Families phone numbers may have changed or been disconnected.</li><li>- Families may not be able to reach you during the day because of work or family obligations.</li><li>- Families may not speak English well enough to carry on a phone conversation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Get updated contact information throughout the course of year and use other communication methods (email, regular mail, etc.).</li><li>- At the beginning of the year, let families know when you can be reached.</li><li>- Use an interpreter to talk for you or learn enough of their home language to ask them to come in for a visit.</li></ul>
Family members don't come into the building when they pick up their children.		
Families don't take the program seriously. They just view us as babysitters.		





# OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

	Possible underlying causes	Possible solutions
Family members don't come into the building when they pick up their children.		
Families don't take the program seriously. They just view us as babysitters.		





# BARRIERS TO ENGAGEMENT

- Transportation
- Multiple jobs
- Cultural or language barriers
- Younger children to care for
- Discomfort or fear
- Socioeconomic barriers





# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



Challenges

**Know Families**

Involve Families

Support Families

Training Staff



# GETTING TO KNOW FAMILIES



- Take initiative
- Use existing opportunities
- Search for commonalities





# INITIATE WITH A SURVEY

You for Youth | Family Engagement 1

## Understanding Program Families

Ask families to complete this form as part of registration for your program. Be sure to translate this into families' native languages, if applicable.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Other children's names and ages: \_\_\_\_\_

### I. Contact Information

Name of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information:

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The best time of day to contact me is usually: \_\_\_\_\_

The best way to reach me is (circle all that apply):

- cell phone (text)
- cell phone (call)
- home phone
- work phone
- email
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

### II. About My Child

Which of your child's qualities or abilities are you most proud of? \_\_\_\_\_

What quality or ability (or lack thereof) are you most concerned about? \_\_\_\_\_

[Continue to the next page]

This resource is in the public domain. Authorization to reproduce it in whole or part is granted. This resource was funded by the U.S. Department of Education in 2016 under contract number ED-ESE-14-D-0008. The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the Department or the contractor. Learn more about professional development planning and 21st CCLC learning at <https://yfy.ed.gov>.

If I could teach my child or help my child learn just three things, they would be:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

What are your child's strongest subjects in school? Where does he or she struggle?





# EXISTING OPPORTUNITIES



- What places within your community do families gather together?
- What events are highly attended?



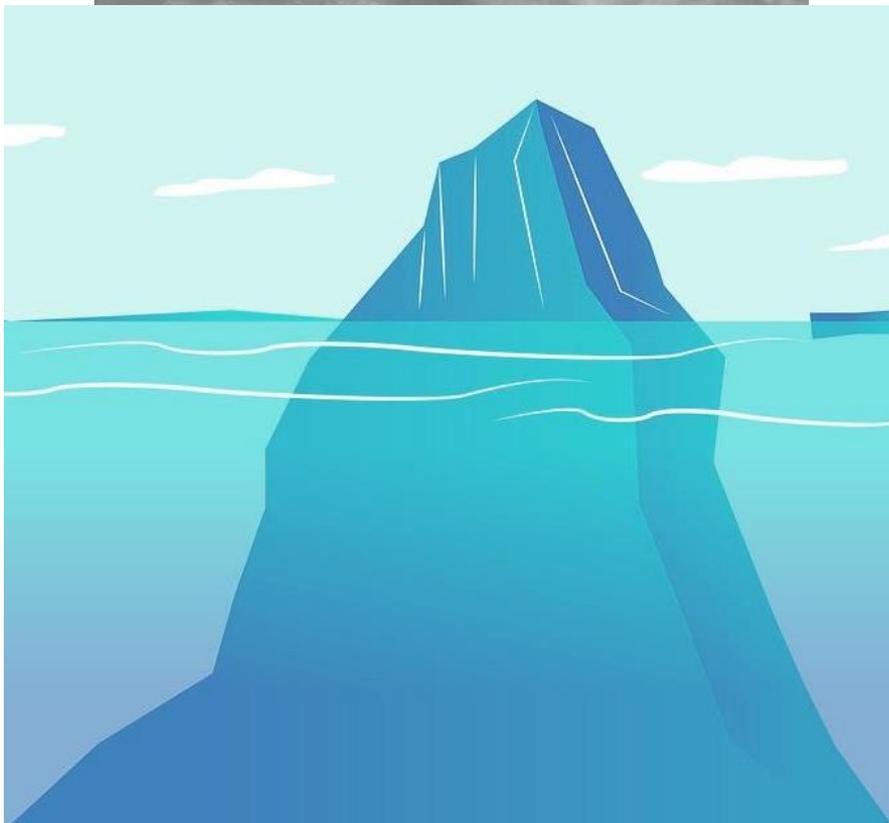
# SEARCH FOR COMMONALITIES



When they share an  
When do people  
experience or find a  
connect?  
similarity.



surface aspects of culture



deep aspects of culture

# WHAT IS CULTURE?



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



# CULTURE COMPETENCE

- Aware of different cultures
- Acknowledge culture impacts thoughts and behaviors
- Seek to understand





# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



Challenges

Know Families

**Involve Families**

Support Families

Training Staff





# FAMILY GUIDEBOOK

## What are your program policies and how can families be involved in the program?



### Creating a Family Guidebook

Your Family Guidebook should clearly explain program policies and procedures and help families understand how to be involved in the program. Key components of a Family Guidebook include:

- An introduction to your program
    - Program history
    - Goals and objectives
    - A welcome from the director
  - Directory of staff members
    - Include pictures
    - Have short bios
    - History in the program and working with youth
  - Calendar of events
    - Special events
    - Holidays
    - Early or late days
  - Program rules and expectations
    - Rules for different program locations (outside, bus, classrooms, etc.)
    - Responsibilities of youth in the program
    - Consequences for not following rules and procedures
    - Rewards for positive behavior
  - Policies and procedures
    - Guidelines for food served and allowed in the program
    - Arrival and dismissal
    - Medication policies
    - Telephone use by children
    - Bringing items from home into the program
  - Academic expectations
    - Amount of homework done in the program
    - Sharing of grades and state test information
    - How families can help
  - Involvement opportunities and policies
    - Family involvement philosophy
    - Existing and potential opportunities for involvement
    - Ways to share concerns and ideas
- Other Ideas:**
- Leave areas such as “Responsibilities of youth” and “Potential opportunities for involvement” blank to allow youth and families to fill them in once they are decided.
  - Include a table of contents or quick reference guide that helps families get to specific pages fast.
  - Include a history of past family involvement in the program
  - Include your guidebook or parts of it on your program website
  - Leave blank sections where families can fill in updated information such as youth grades and progress reports and family volunteer hours or points.





# FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

What does family involvement look like?

- Communication
- Leadership Roles
- Family Activities
- Families as Resources

What does family involvement look like?





# COMMUNICATION

**INFORMAL**

**WRITTEN**

**VISUAL**





# COMMUNICATION: INFORMAL

- Everyday Greetings
- Non-verbal Signals
- Tone





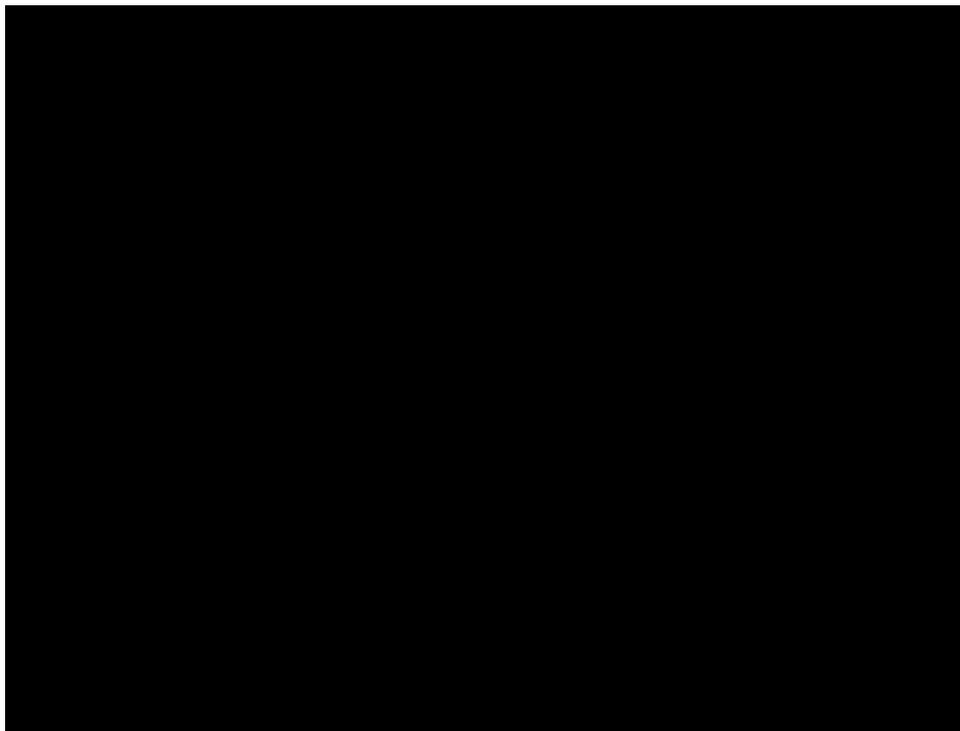
# COMMUNICATION: VISUAL

- Create a sense of welcome, community, and connection among families
- Share information about program goals, needs, and accomplishments
- Recognize and celebrate families





# A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT?



# COMMUNICATION: WRITTEN



**Efficient**

**YES**

**Effective**

**NOT**

**ALWAYS**



# COMMUNICATION: WRITTEN

What do we need to be mindful of when communicating in a written format?





# INVITING FAMILIES

## Parenting 101: A Workshop on How to be a Better Parent

### **Presenters:**

Denise Smith, Union Middle School Afterschool Program Director

Mike Simmons, Department of Child Protective Services

### **Meeting Description:**

Come to hear a presentation about how to be a better parent. There will be time for questions and discussion.

RSVP to [dsmith@ums.school](mailto:dsmith@ums.school) by September 30th.

## Support Middle School Youth's Transition to High School

### **Presenters:**

Omari Jensen, Union Middle School Parent

Nancy Little, Adolescent Counselor

### **Meeting Description:**

During this interactive session, the presenters will offer strategies and resources families can use to better support successful transitions for middle school youth. Bring questions, ideas, and a sense of humor.

Have ideas for what the presenters should address or how you could help? Email them to [dsmith@ums.school](mailto:dsmith@ums.school) or drop them in the anonymously in the program suggestion box in the main office.





# LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Advisory Boards
- Voting on Program Initiatives
- Feedback
- Planning or Leading Activities





# TOOLS FOR CREATING A PARENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

## Y4Y Panel Discussion: Creating a Parent-Community Advisory Board

**Tuesday, April 07, 2015 at 9:00 AM (Eastern)**

During this virtual panel discussion and webinar, Y4Y hosts spoke to three experienced out-of-school time practitioners:

- Lea Ann Johnson, Director of Lincoln Community Learning Centers, Nebraska
- Cynthia Okazaki, Site Manager for PACT Kaneohe Community Family Center, Hawaii
- Lynn Malinoff, Director of EMU Bright Futures 21st CCLC Programs, Michigan

Learn strategies and best practices for setting up advisory boards from our panelists and discover resources and tools for advisory board development available on Y4Y.





# FAMILY NIGHTS

*Math*

**CCR**

*Literacy*

**PLAN FOR FUN LEARNING**

*Science*

*Social Studies*





# ACTIVITY IDEAS

**education world**<sup>®</sup>  
Connecting educators to what works

Teacher Essentials ▾ Administrators ▾ Lesson Plans ▾ Technology ▾ Prof Dev Printable

**WHAT'S NEW**

- Making the Grade
- "It's Just My Opinion" and the Burden of Proo...
- Revisiting Tracking

**IMPACT THE FUTURE**

Choose from multiple education degrees

Home >> Prof. Development >> Activities to Promote Parent Involvement

## Activities to Promote Parent Involvement [Print](#)

Research shows that children are more likely to succeed academically and are less likely to engage in violent behavior if their families are involved in their education. Many parents say, however, that they feel unwelcome or uncomfortable in their children's schools. Teachers often feel under attack by parents who are highly involved. Learn how to bridge the gap. Included: A dozen activities to promote parental involvement and ten tips for involved parents.

The following quote comes from Fathers' Involvement in Their Children's Schools, a report from the National Center for Education Statistics. "School-aged children in both two-parent and single-parent families are more likely to get mostly A's, to enjoy school, and to participate in extracurricular activities and are less likely to have ever repeated a grade and to have ever been suspended or expelled if their fathers or mothers have high as opposed to low levels of involvement in their schools."

Additional studies have found that parental involvement is more important to student success, *at every grade level*, than family income or education. However, Strong Families, Strong Schools, a report that reflects 30 years of research on family involvement in education, stated the sad fact that "in many instances parents don't feel as if we welcome them in school."





# GETTING INPUT

- Informal Surveys
- Formal Surveys
- One on One Interviews





# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



Challenges

Know Families

Involve Families

**Support Families**

Training Staff



# SUPPORTING FAMILIES



- Meet Basic Needs
- Access Community Services
- Develop Professional Skills
- Reach Personal Goals
- Increase Parental Toolkit





# SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LINKING ACTIVITIES



- School/Program Events
- Homework Contracts
- Community Fair
- Resource Center





# SUPPORTING ALL FAMILIES

- Rural populations
- Culturally diverse families
- “Non-traditional” families



# PARENTAL CONCERN #1

Dear 21st CCLC Site,

Why should I come to parent workshops to find out what my child is learning in school? Isn't it the role of the school to educate my child?

Sincerely,  
Perplexed Parent





# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



Challenges

Know Families

Involve Families

Support Families

**Training Staff**





# CLARIFYING GOALS



You for Youth | Family Engagement

1

## Goals for Family Engagement

Clarify goals for family engagement. Work with staff to develop short and longer-term goals, and ensure that all work as a team to achieve them. For each goal, list the steps involved, person or people responsible, and the resources or materials needed.

Goals	Steps Involved	Who is Responsible	Resources Needed
Create a program space where all families feel welcome			
Ensure the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse families and students are met			
Help families gain access to the organizations, people, and resources they need to support their children and themselves			
Find innovative and differentiated ways to involve families that utilize their skills and address their concerns			
Help families find additional ways to be involved in their children's lives and support their healthy development			
Support better student behavior and academic performance in school and the program			
Other:			





# STAFF TRAINING

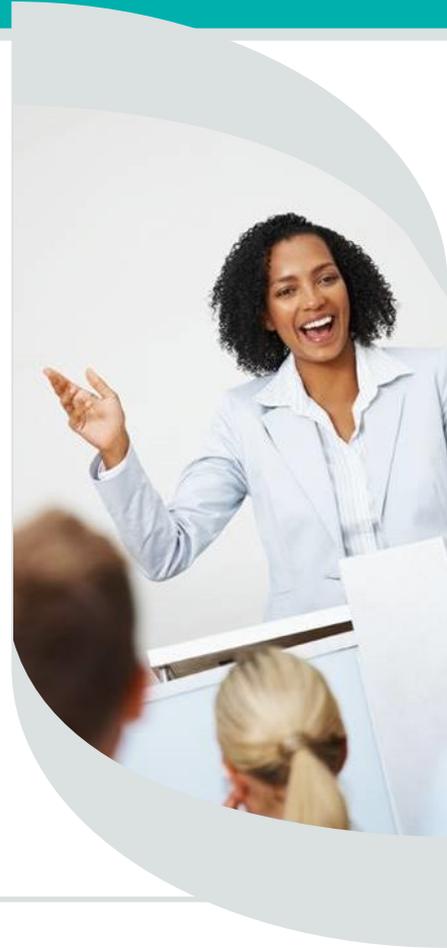
- Share and question assumptions
- Provide exciting involvement opportunities for youth and families
- Connect families to one another and link them to helpful community resources
- An ongoing process





# Y4Y STAFF TRAINING

- Courses
- Trainings To Go
- Training Starters





# SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Review the main components of strong family engagement practices
- Identify Y4Y resources that enhance family engagement efforts
- Develop strategies to improve family engagement in your program





# NEXT STEPS

- What questions do you have about the materials or content?
- Set at least one goal for yourself and/or your program around Family Engagement.





# CONTACT US

**Allyson Zalewski**

*azalewski@foundationsinc.org*

**Jennifer Conner**

*jconner@foundationsinc.org*

**General Inquiries: [y4yTA@seiservices.com](mailto:y4yTA@seiservices.com)**

**Visit: [www.y4y.ed.gov](http://www.y4y.ed.gov)**





# UNTIL NEXT TIME...

Go to the [Virtual Institute Page on Y4Y](#),

**BE SURE TO LOG IN...**

- Course Content
- Links to Y4Y Resources
- Discussion Board
  - Live interaction for the next half hour

**NEXT TIME...**

Topic: Engaging Partners for Sustainability

**August 30, 2018 at 1:00pm Eastern**

