

PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES

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OBJECTIVES

- Define the role of the parent and the provider
- Summarize the process for creating a strong partnership
- List 2-3 benefits of an effective partnership
- Generate appropriate responses to difficult parent interactions

What do you expect from parents?



What do parents expect from you?



A PARENT'S JOB

- Advocate
- Expert on their child
- Resource
- Influence on their child
- Primary Caregiver



A PROVIDER'S JOB

- Expert on child development
- Advocate
- Professional
- Influence on the group
- Resource



BENEFITS OF EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

For the child...

For the parent...

For the provider...



START STRONG

- Get to know the family
- Establish a communication routine
- Maintain professional interactions
- Stay focused on the child
- Appreciate the parent's role



MAINTAIN THE RELATIONSHIP

Success depends on:

- Mutual respect
- Understanding and appreciating perspectives
- Two-way communication
- Common goals
- Realistic expectations
- Strive for partnership, not just participation
- Individualize relationships

CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICE

- Connect with families and learn about traditions, customs
- Make use of home languages in the classroom
- Honor diversity and cultural awareness as a concept and a core value of our society.
- Exhibit diversity in the environment, books, toys, etc.
- Differentiate between personal beliefs and universal truths

BREAKING BAD NEWS...

- Delivering difficult messages
 - Be friendly, not flippant
 - Do not alarm the parent
 - Reassure the parent as much as possible
 - Explain without blame what has occurred
 - Let the parent know who he or she can talk to if they need further information
 - Alert anyone else who needs to be aware of the situation

PARENTS BEHAVING BADLY....

- Responding to unpleasant comments
 - Stop and breathe
 - Do not get defensive – It isn't about you.
 - Determine the actual concern
 - Empathize with the parent
 - Give the parent action-oriented solutions
 - Get the parent involved in the problem solving
 - Let the parent vent



CONCLUSION

Action Plans

Questions

Best Practices