CCR&R Family Engagement

Networks Retreat
Gainesville, Florida
February 26th
Family Engagement

CCR&R is at the core of the Early Learning and Care System.
What is the role of the CCR&R department at your ELC?
What role does CCR&R play in your daily work?
Family Engagement

Vision:
Empowering parents to make the best decision for their child’s education and future.

Mission:
CCR&R will support and strengthen families and early learning caregivers through information, referrals and community connections.
Family Engagement

Four Functions of CCR&R

1. Consumer Education  3. Community Resources
2. Child Care Listings  4. Financial Options
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There are four basic components to CCR&R

And one common denominator
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Family!!!!
Who is responsible for family engagement at your coalition?

- CCR&R
- School Readiness/VPK Eligibility
- Provider Services
- Community Outreach Coordinator
- Contracts/Finance
- Executive Director
- Professional Development Coordinator
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Who are Florida’s Families?

• Two parent households
• Single parents
• Teenage parents
• Grandparents as parents
• Foster parents
• Kinship parents
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Who are Florida’s Families?

- 14% of Florida’s population lives in poverty
- 13.9% of women in Florida live in poverty

Source – National Center for Children in Poverty www.nccp.org
Who are Florida’s Families?

• 23,616 children are in Out-of-Home care in Florida

Source – Department of Children and Families Child Welfare Dashboard
www.dcf.state.fl.us
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What do families need?
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How Does CCR&R inform and support families

- How do we help?
- How do we educate?
- How to we connect them to resources?
What is Family Engagement?

• **Family Engagement:** The systematic inclusion of *families as partners* in a child’s development, learning and wellness, enabled by *positive relationships* between families and staff in early learning programs.
Family Engagement

What is Family Engagement?

**Goal:** The goal of family engagement is the conscious effort of the parents and/or other family members to engage in a child’s education and development by promoting positive behaviors and ensuring the child’s well-being.
Why is family engagement important?
Family Engagement

Why is Family Engagement Important?

• Supports children’s school readiness
Family Engagement

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• Supports children’s school readiness
• Promotes children’s school success
  – increases motivation
  – reduces behavioral problems
  – improves social-emotional development of children
Family Engagement

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• Fosters skills in young children such as impulse control, attention, memory and planning skills.
Why is Family Engagement Important?

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  – increases motivation
  – reduces behavioral problems
  – improves social-emotional development of children
• Fosters skills in young children such as impulse control, attention, memory and planning skills.
• Supports the healthy development of all children and especially important for those less likely to succeed in school.
Family Engagement

1. Identify needs
2. Develop and Prioritize Goals
3. Reflect and Revise
4. Determine Action Steps
5. Access Resources
6. Implement Plan
7. Evaluate Progress and Revise the Process as needed

Diagram:
- Identify needs
- Develop and Prioritize Goals
- Reflect and Revise
- Determine Action Steps
- Access Resources
- Implement Plan
- Evaluate Progress and Revise the Process as needed
What is the greatest challenge in engaging families?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lack of resources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staffing/time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less face to face</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family priorities/interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of staff training</td>
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</table>
Family Engagement

Barriers to Family Engagement

- Busy schedules
- Communication channels
- Language
- Transportation
- Parental attitudes
- Lack of information
- Lack of funding
Family Engagement

Connect with Community Partners

- Local Churches
- Civic Organizations
- United Way
- Local Businesses
- Follow mom groups on social media
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Share Information

• Social Media
• Emails
• Newsletters
• Brochures from partners
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Connect with your Coalition Colleagues
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What can Coalitions do?

Train providers
- How CCR&R can help
- Effective communication
- Social media
- Apps
- Events
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Keep it Simple!
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Partnering with Families for Children’s Success

Family engagement supports children’s school readiness, promotes their school success and prepares them for life. It is especially important for children who are less likely to succeed in school. Family engagement is a shared responsibility of the Office of Early Learning, early learning coalitions, early learning programs and providers to engage families in meaningful ways to actively support their children’s learning, development and wellness.

WHAT IS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT?

The systematic inclusion of families as partners in a child’s development, learning and wellness, enabled by positive relationships between families and staff in early learning programs.

Who is involved?

Early Learning Coalitions, Child Care Providers, Families
Family Engagement

Tools for Writing a Plan

• Toolkits for Early Learning Coalitions
• Toolkits for Providers and Families
• Toolkits include:
  • Sample Family Engagement Plans
  • Family Engagement Self-Assessments
  • Guidance for Family Engagement
  • Additional Resources
  • Partners
### (DRAFT) SAMPLE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN FOR COALITIONS

**Goal:** The goal of family engagement is the conscious effort of the parents and/or other family members to engage in a child’s education and development by promoting positive behaviors and ensuring the child’s well-being. Family engagement has been shown to increase motivation, reduce behavioral problems and improve social-emotional development of children. Further, family engagement fosters school readiness skills in young children such as impulse control, attention, memory and planning skills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal/Focus Area</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Activity/Strategy</th>
<th>Initiative Lead</th>
<th>Outcomes/Successes</th>
<th>Partners/Champions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Create a welcoming environment to promote family engagement.</td>
<td>• Have each department/program plan ways to support and encourage families and engage families in their children’s learning and development.</td>
<td>Family Services Director and CCR&amp;R Coordinator</td>
<td>• Consumer education materials available in lobby</td>
<td>• SEDNET</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Informational and educational videos shown in lobby for families waiting for appointments/services</td>
<td>• Strengthening Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Responsiveness</td>
<td>Be considerate of cultural and linguistic differences.</td>
<td>• Take into consideration the cultural and linguistic differences in the providers and families served by the early learning coalition when planning training, meetings, special events, ways to communicate and provide information.</td>
<td>CCR&amp;R Coordinator and ELC Administrators</td>
<td>• 2 additional multi-lingual staff members hired to assist families</td>
<td>• Multi-Cultural Resources Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Hire diverse staff that reflect the diversity of the communities being served by the coalition.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Interpreters hired for family and provider trainings and events</td>
<td>• Local school district multi-cultural liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources for Providers</td>
<td>Provide community resources, consumer education, training and assistance to child care</td>
<td>• Topics may include child development, developmentally appropriate activities, social-emotional development, health and safety, trauma informed care, inclusion, policies and procedures of child care</td>
<td>CCR&amp;R Coordinator, Professional Development/Training Coordinator, and Inclusion Specialist</td>
<td>• 25% increase in attendance for professional development on various topics for providers</td>
<td>• SEDNET</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Trauma informed training provided for</td>
<td>• Vroom</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Strengthening Families</td>
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Family Engagement

Sample Plan
For Providers

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<th>Goal/Focus Area</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Activity/Strategy</th>
<th>Outcomes/Succeses</th>
<th>Challenges/Barriers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Environment              | Create a welcoming environment for children and their families             | • Signs are posted for families to find their way around the building or facility and are in the languages represented by the children in the program  
                           |                                                        | • Staff greets families by name and welcomes them to visit when possible.  
                           |                                                        | • Orientations and a guided tour of the facility for new families.  
                           |                                                        | • Families are encouraged to participate in their children’s learning in a variety of ways.        | • Responses on a family survey to questions about families feeling welcome and encouraged to participate  
                           |                                                        |                                                        | • \# of attendees at new family orientations  
                           |                                                        |                                                        | • \# of family tours given  
                           |                                                        |                                                        | • List of ways families are encouraged to become in their children’s learning                     | • Financial resources to get signs printed  
                           |                                                        |                                                        |                                                        | • Frequent changes in cultural representation of families  
                           |                                                        |                                                        |                                                        | • Frequent staff changes                                                                         |
| Cultural Responsiveness  | Be considerate of cultural and linguistic differences.                      | • Plan for the cultural and linguistic diversity in families by hiring staff that reflect the diversity of the community served  
                           |                                                        | • Provide translators for family events and written translations of materials for families.      | • Cultural and linguistic make up of staff  
                           |                                                        |                                                        |                                                        | • \# of events and conferences with translators or interpreters provided  
                           |                                                        |                                                        |                                                        | • \# of translations provided for written materials or on website                                  | • Lack of qualified teachers that represent different cultures  
                           |                                                        |                                                        |                                                        |                                                        | • Lack of resources for translators and/or interpreters                                           |
| Consumer Education for   | Provide information, resources and training for families.                  | • Topics may include child development, developmentally appropriate activities, social-emotional development, health and safety, trauma informed care, inclusion, quality child care and early education, and transitions for families.  
                           |                                                        |                                                        | • Types and \# of materials/resources provided to families  
                           |                                                        |                                                        |                                                        | • Types and \# of classes or trainings for families  
                           |                                                        |                                                        |                                                        | • \# of newsletters on special topics or pertinent information for families                       | • Staff has limited knowledge on specific topics                                                  |

(DRAFT) SAMPLE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN FOR PROVIDERS

Goal: The goal of family engagement is the conscious effort of the parents and/or other family members to engage in a child’s education and development by promoting positive behaviors and ensuring the child’s well-being. Family engagement has been shown to increase motivation, reduce behavioral problems and improve social-emotional development of children. Further, family engagement fosters school readiness skills in young children such as impulse control, attention, memory and planning skills.
Family Engagement Checklist

What is Family Engagement?
Families are engaged when they partner with early learning programs to promote their children's development, learning and wellness. Positive relationships between families and staff in early learning programs are the foundation for family engagement.

Family engagement has been shown to:
- Increase a child's motivation to learn
- Reduce behavioral problems
- Improve social-emotional development
- Foster school readiness skills, such as impulse control, attention, memory and planning skills.

This checklist is a tool for your family to use to consider the level of partnership with your child’s early learning program. Ask yourself the following questions and check a box for your answer. For any items answered “no”, you may want to write a note on how you can begin doing that item. Consider sharing your responses with your child’s teacher and discuss ways you can be even more engaged in your child’s learning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family participation in decision-making and goal setting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does your family...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share the hopes and expectations you have for your child with the teacher either in writing or in person?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with the teacher to set learning goals for your child at home and school?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share information and discuss your child’s progress toward achieving goals for school and home?</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Two-way communication</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does your family...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicate the preferred modes of communication with the teacher? (examples: email, text, phone, in person)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in regular parent-teacher conferences throughout the year?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage in face-to-face conversations with school staff at drop-off and pickup times?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read all written communication about your child’s activities and respond as needed?</td>
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Family Engagement

Tools for Connecting with Families

- Website
- Social Media
- Newsletters
- Community Events
- Partnerships
- Technical assistance and training for Providers/Teachers

Early Learning Parents’ Pages

**April 2017**

In This Issue

- Meltdowns and Tantrums
- Safe Kids Day
- Social Development Timeline for 3- to 5-Year-Olds

Week of the Young Child

Minimize meltdowns

You are not alone. In her book *Mind in the Making: The Emerging Science of How Our Brains Become Us*, Harvard Professor Susan F. Foster explains that when children experience meltdowns and emotional breakdowns, their brains release chemicals that cause them to become overwhelmed and irrational. By helping them to calm down and restore normal brain flow to the brain, instead of a child, loud screams, use a soft, soothing voice, to maintain an outlook, shop.

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23 Pins

Infant Exploration

11 Pins

Infants Move and Gr... 9 Pins

Office of Early Learning

Learn Early. Learn for Life.

Financial Assistance

Need help paying for child care?
- Personal Learning Scholarships
- Tax Credits

Family Engagement

Brain building moments

Other resources

You already have what it takes!
Resources:

- Toolkit for Early Learning Coalitions
- Toolkit for Providers
- Toolkit for Families

Located on CCR&R Dropbox/OEL SharePoint (Coalitions Zone) and shared with ELCs

- Link to CCR&R Dropbox:

  https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nvn5px905ifmf22/AABP1z7MWWy2lfUkrrdFU5Xna?dl=0
Key takeaways?
Thank you!!