Shifting from Teacher to Learner: Transforming Teacher-Family Relationships

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Webinar 1
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Introduced Funds of Knowledge
Nowhere do we foster inquiry into who our students really are or encourage teachers to develop links to the often rich home lives of students, yet teachers cannot hope to begin to understand who sits before them unless they can connect with the families and communities from which their students come.

(Delpit, 1995, p.179)
Funds of Knowledge

The FoK approach merges qualitative and ethnographic methods for teachers to learn about students’ rich cultural, social and intellectual resources that are present in the household. Teachers draw on students’ FoK, defined as “historically accumulated bodies of knowledge and skills essential for household functioning and well-being,” to design learning opportunities that are culturally responsive.

Ethnographic Home Visits

Home visits can help teachers develop reciprocal relationships with families…but in order for them to function in this manner teachers and teacher educators need to explicitly think through how power functions and how boundaries are created between families and teachers. That way teachers can be more aware and intentional during their home visits. We think of this as a social justice issue and consider it the teachers’ responsibility to truly connect with families so they can better understand the lives of their students.

Flip this:

What are family’s perspectives of home visits?

Family Involvement - word cloud?

Join by Web

1. Go to PollEv.com
2. Enter ANNEKARABON351
3. Respond to activity

Join by Text

1. Text ANNEKARABON351 to 37607
2. Text in your message

Total Results: 0
To learn from families, we can engage in:

• Neighborhood Observations
• Ethnographic Home Visits
• Reflection and Curriculum Planning
Ethnographic Home Visits

- Approaching families as experts of their own lives, giving yourself over to learning through listening and careful documentation.
- Careful observation without judgment
  - All families have resources that are valuable
- Understanding your own cultural practices
- Interviews that situate child in context
Ethnographic Home Visits

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Funds of Knowledge Literature

Defining Roles & Creating Boundaries

Considering Power in Family-Teacher Relationships

The Importance of Connection

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I’m glad that I chose Zoe. She is very reserved and quiet at times...visiting her home will grow our connection to better meet her needs! (Lucy HVR5)
How do family’s perceive home visits?
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