



Parenting Matters:

Unlocking the Possibilities for Authentic Partnerships with Families

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December 2, 2016

Today's discussion

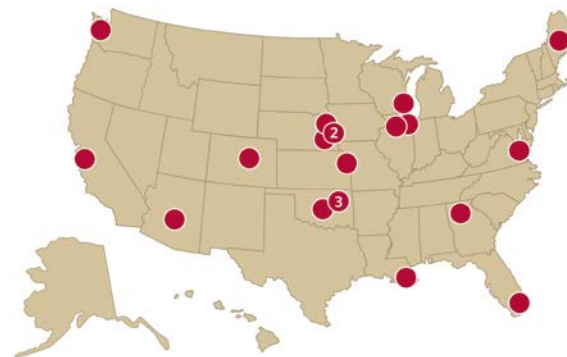
- ▶ What the research tells us
- ▶ Lessons from various Family Engagement frameworks
- ▶ Paradigm shift in mindset, practice

A Simple Twist of Fate



Buffett Early
Childhood Fund
investing in the early years

EDUCARE



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Washington, DC
West DuPage, IL
Winnebago, NE

As of August 2015

Parenting matters



Source: Waldfogel & Washbrook, 2011

More reasons why parenting matters!

Parenting matters.

The single most important factor explaining the poorer cognitive performance of low-income children relative to middle-income children: **Parenting Style**

Accounts for...

19% of the gap in
MATHEMATICS

21% of the gap in
LITERACY

33% of the gap in
LANGUAGE

Key factor in the
parenting style
domain is
maternal
sensitivity and
responsiveness.

(Waldfoegel & Washbrook, 2011)

Family Engagement

“A reciprocal partnership between parents, staff and programs that reflects a shared responsibility to foster children’s development and learning [at home, school or in the community].”

Halgunseth, Peterson, Stark, & Moodie, 2009

Family Engagement

“Family engagement is building relationships with families that support family well-being, strong relationships between parents and their children, ongoing learning and development for both parents and their children.”

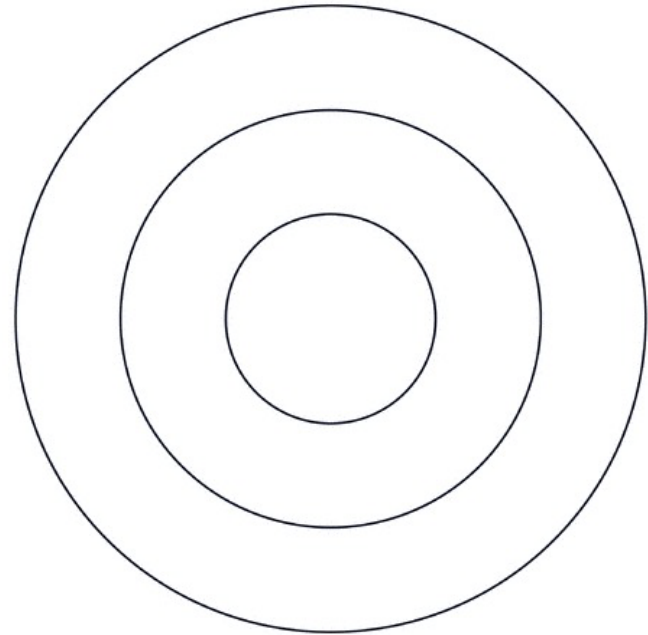
- The National Center for Parent, Family and Community Engagement Head Start

Children grow up in families and families live in communities:

The Ecology of Child Development
(Urie Bronfenbrenner)

The spirit of this approach:

- ▶ Mutual Respect
- ▶ Appreciation Of Culture
- ▶ Value Of Partnerships



Mindset is defined as a “mental attitude or set of opinions or a particular way of thinking about something.”

The Paradigm Shift

For Parents...	To...
Family engagement as an add-on	Family engagement as an essential, fundamental component of an effective teaching and learning practice
Perception of families' deficits	Perception of families as resilient
Family involvement	Family engagement
Staff holding power	Sharing power with parents
Role of staff as expert	Viewing parents as experts
Staff's role as provider of service	Staff's role as facilitator and partner in building parents' capacity, promoting parental comfort, competence and confidence
Staff doing to and for parents	Staff partnering with and supporting parents

Multiple Frameworks

- ▶ The Head Start Parent, Family and Community Engagement Framework
- ▶ Strengthening Families and Protective Factors Framework
- ▶ Ascend/Aspen Institute Two Generation Approach
- ▶ Partners in Education/Dual Capacity Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships

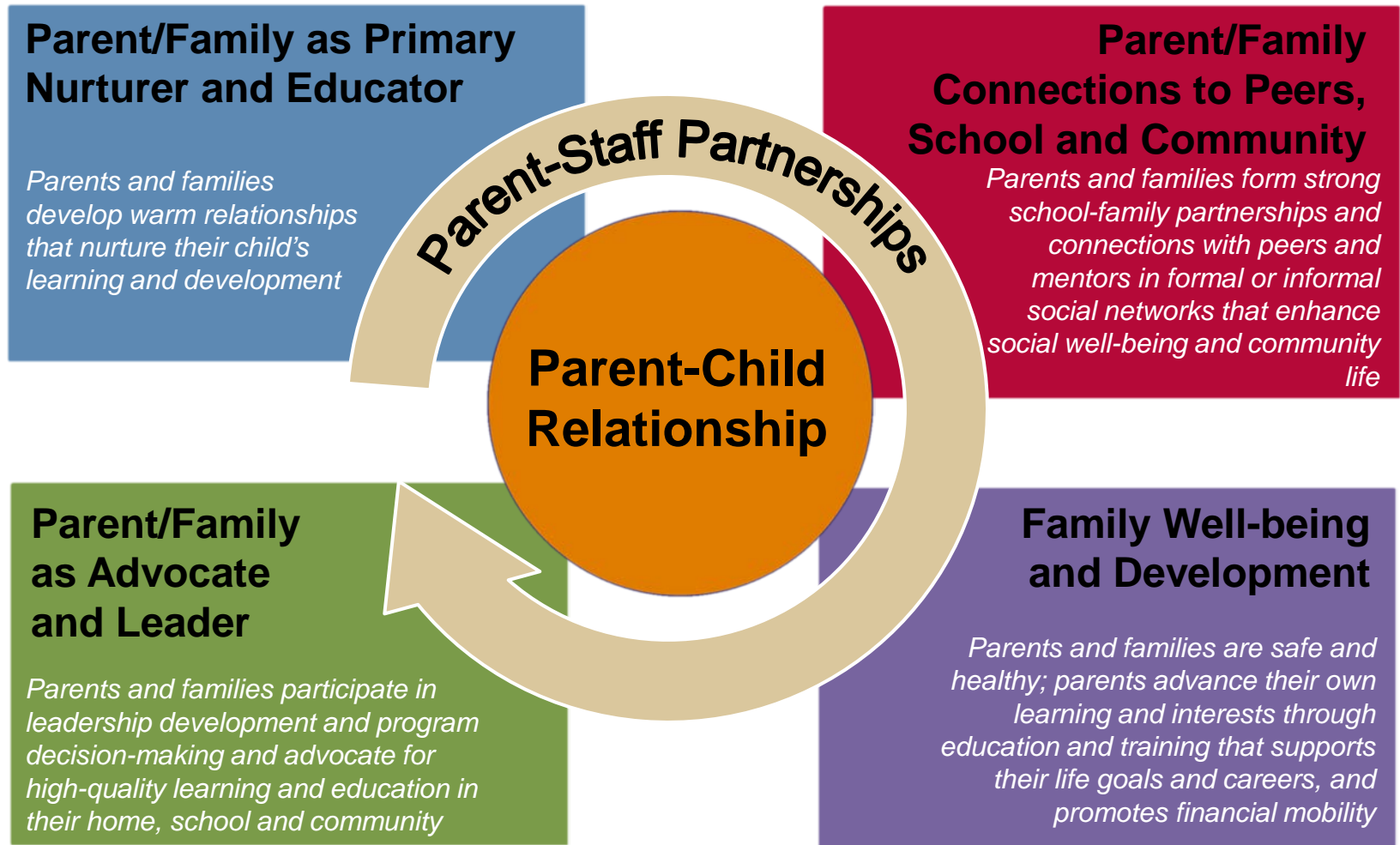
The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships



Family Engagement Areas of Impact

(Adapted from the PFCE Framework)

Educare empowers and strengthens parents' capacity to fully realize their role as strong nurturers, educators and leaders in their families, schools and communities, in order to support children's success in school and in life.



Relationships as the vehicle for learning and change

Educare family engagement builds relationships with families that support:

Strong, caring and responsive parent-child relationships



Peer-to-Peer Connections



Strong Home-School
(Parent-Staff) Partnerships



Parent
Advocacy and
Leadership

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Family Well-Being

Staff and Family Partnership Outcomes

- ▶ **Parents will be able to engage as:**
 - Supporters
 - Encouragers
 - Creators of Structure/Routines
 - Monitors
 - Models
 - Advocates/Leaders
 - Partners/Collaborators
 - Decision-Makers



Source: Mapp, 2013

Staff and Family Partnership Outcomes

Staff will be able to:

- ▶ Enter into a respectful and reciprocal relationship with families
- ▶ Honor and recognize families' existing knowledge and skills
- ▶ Create and sustain a program culture that is inviting, welcoming and promotes family engagement
- ▶ Develop family engagement activities that connect parents to children's development and learning

Hope

“Of all the forces that make for a better world, none is so powerful as hope. With hope, one can think, one can work and one can dream.”

- Charles Henry Sawyer

Let's change the world



Resources

- ▶ Waldfogel, Jane and Elizabeth Washbrook. 2011. “Income-Related Gaps in School Readiness in the United States and the United Kingdom.”
- ▶ In *Persistence, Privilege, and Parenting: The Comparative Study of Intergenerational Mobility*,” edited by Timothy Smeeding, Robert Erikson, and Markus Jantti. 175-202. New York Russell Sage Foundation
- ▶ Richard V Reeves and Kimberly Howard, “The Parenting Gap”., the Center on Children and Families, Brookings Institute, Washington D.C.
- ▶ *Partners in Education: A Dual Capacity–Building Framework for Family and School Partnerships* (2013). A publication of SEDL in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education.
- ▶ Cochran, M. (Ed.). (1993). *Empowerment and Family Support*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell Cooperative Extension.
- ▶ Gonzales-Mena, J (2008). *Diversity in Early Care and Education: Honoring Differences*. Washington, D.C.: McGraw–Hill.
- ▶ Gonzales -Mena, J (2009). *Child, Family and Community Family Centered Early Care and Education* (5th ed.). Columbus, OH: Pearson.

Resources Con't

- ▶ Iruka, I.U, Curenton, S.M. & Eke, W.A. (2014). *The CRAF-E⁴ Family Engagement Model: Building Practitioner's Competence to Work with Diverse Families*. San Diego, CA: Elsevier.
- ▶ Kalil, A. (2015). Behavioral insights and parenting knowledge, attitudes and practices [Powerpoint slides]. Institute of Medicine National Research Council Board on Children, Youth and Families. Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago.
- ▶ Iruka, I.U., Durden, T. & Kennel, P. (2015). Changing faces: Parenting, culture, and child learning and development. *Zero to Three*, 35(4), 10.
- ▶ Espinoza, L. (2010). *Getting it right for young children from diverse backgrounds: Applying research to Improve practice*. Washington, D. C., Pearson.

Additional Resources

- ▶ Head Start National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement
- ▶ Implementing Parenting Interventions In Early Care and Education Setting: A Guidebook for Implementation
- ▶ Partners in Education: A Dual Capacity Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships
- ▶ Compendium of Parenting Interventions
- ▶ Parenting Matters: Supporting Parents of Children Ages 0-8
- ▶ Ascend Two Generation Framework