PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES OF PRESCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

TEAM PRESENTATION BY
LEARNING COMMUNITY CENTER OF SOUTH OMAHA

AND SPECIAL THANKS TO:
LUZ ESTHER MUÑOZ AND DIMAS BRICEÑO
Session Outline

- Learning Community Center of South Omaha

- 3 Keys to Family Partnerships
  - For each key identified
    - Family Perspectives
    - Concrete strategies (staff)
    - Table reflection or discussion
Objectives for our Presentation

- New strategies you can take back to programs/schools/classrooms
- Share a strengths-based perspective for working with families
- Learn from each other
HISTORY AND BACKGROUND – RENEE FRANKLIN
“Satellites” of the South Center

1. Educare

2. Educare of Omaha, Indian Hill
Bright Spot in Hispanic Education Award
Family Learning Program

Education of Young Children

- Interactive Parent/Child Activities
- Parenting Classes and Workshops
- Adult Literacy For Parents
- Home Visits
Parent Education – ESL + Parent Classes
Child Learning Classrooms (While Parents In Class)
Outdoor Classroom for Children
Interactive Parent/Child Activities
Educational Field Trips
Home Visits
3 Keys to Family Partnerships
Key #1 = Listen To Families
Key #1 = Listen To Families

Benefits:
- Identify/Address Barriers to Engagement
- Identify Cultural Accommodations Needed
- Create Programming that Works for Families
Reflection

What barriers do you already know exist for the families in your program?

2 minutes
Key #2 = Cultivate a Culture of Belonging
Key #2 = Cultivate a Culture of Belonging

Luz Muñoz and daughter Diana
Cultivate a Culture of Belonging

1. Reminders That We Care and Are Invested
2. “Family” Atmosphere
3. Administrative Considerations
4. Table Discussion
“Making room for what’s not important creates the space for people to bring up what is important”

- ELSA AUERBACH
Reminders That We Are Invested
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
from the Learning Community Center of South Omaha
Family Atmosphere
Participants Laughing
Administrative Considerations
Administrative Considerations

Hiring
- Mission-Oriented
- Including Families in Hiring Process
- Hire From Same Community

Focus on Quality
- Include family voice before changes
- Show desire to continuously improve in all areas
Maria Elena Mosqueda
Parent Participant

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Staff
Family Participation in Hiring Process
Table Discussion

1-2 specifics to create a family-friendly atmosphere
#3 = Focus on Family Strengths
Dimas Briceño – Program Graduate
PARTNERING WITH PARENTS
Allow for Suggestions

- Continuous Feedback
- Dedicated time for feedback (focus groups)
- Follow Up
Parent Inclusion Ideas

- Reciprocal Conferences
- Give families home activities to complement classroom learning
- Bring families onsite for fun activities
Program Benefits

- Recruitment
- Great Ideas for Program Improvement
- Share about benefits with larger community
- Facilitating class for other families
Designated Staff to Engage Families

- Ideally - home visits
- Building relationships
- Connecting to community resources
- Shared goal setting
To have a focus on family strengths sometimes takes a paradigm shift on the part of all staff in an organization. It can require shifts in practice and even language used towards and about families and parents. There are always ways to improve in this area. Reflect on your work with clients and share one way that you or your organization could sharpen your focus on Family Strengths.
3 Keys to Family Partnerships

- Listen to Families
- Cultivate a Culture of Belonging
- Focus on Family Strengths
Thank you!
QUESTIONS, IF TIME