

## Featured Presenter



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# Family Services: We Make a Difference



Family Services  
Manager Institute

# 2010 to 2020: Family Engagement as a Strategy to Strengthen Family and Child Outcomes

Intentional

Specific

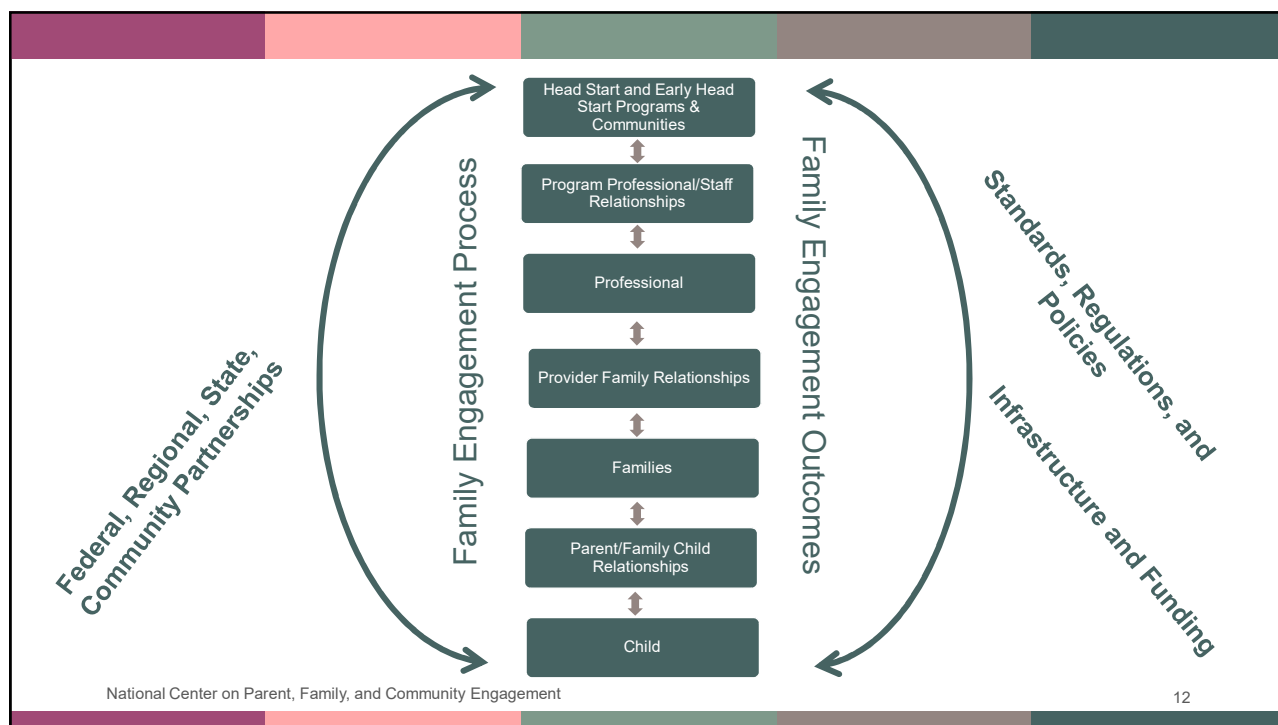
## No More Random Acts of Family Engagement!!!

Rigorous

Measureable

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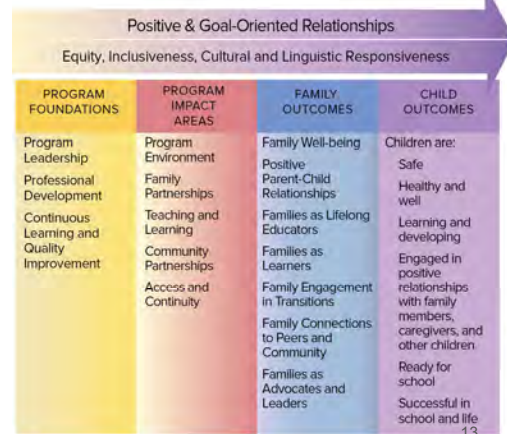
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# Key Ingredients For Advancing Family and Community Engagement: Orientation and a Map

Know the pathway to engagement

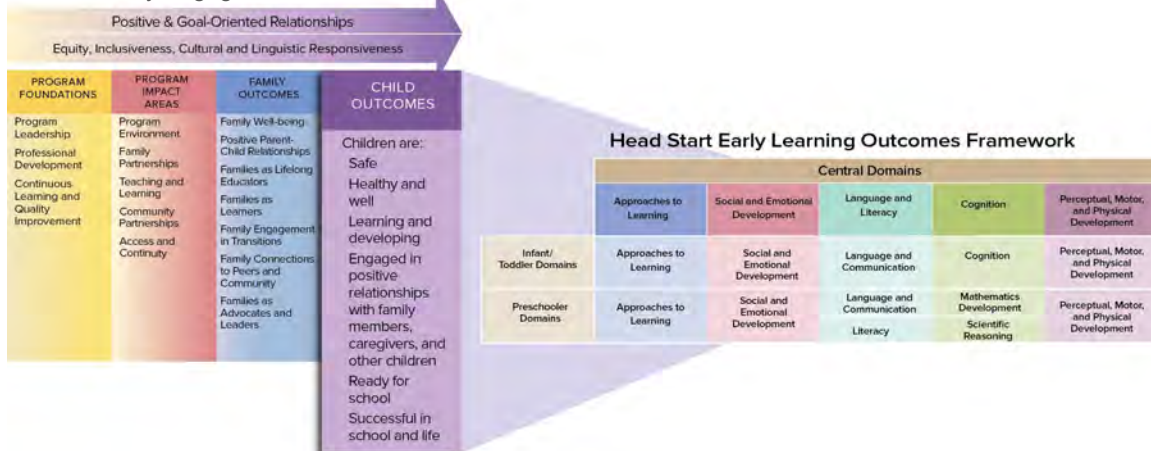
Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework



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# The Impact on Child Outcomes

Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework



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# Does Family Engagement Make a Difference?



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## Yes...in Children's Lives: Key Messages

- Family engagement improved school readiness across domains
- Family Engagement has an impact beyond early childhood – academically and socially
- Family Engagement enhances well-being into adulthood

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## Yes...in Children's Lives

- Family engagement facilitates **children's school success** (Dearing et al., 2006; Downer & Myers, 2009; Epstein, 2001).
- Parent engagement in early learning activities in ECE and home settings is linked to **children's school readiness** (Ansari & Gershoff, 2016; Hindman & Morrison, 2011; Powell et al., 2010; Sheridan et al., 2011).
- When parents are more engaged with teachers and show more school engagement in ECE settings, their children are better prepared for kindergarten (Arnold, Zeljo, & Doctoroff, 2008).
- Early Education Professionals' engagement with parents positively impact **children's learning** by improving parental engagement in **home learning activities** (Forry et al., 2011).

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## Yes...in Children's Lives

- ECE practices to engage parents were associated with subsequent parent engagement in ECE settings and increases in children's math and literacy **SCORES** (Galindo & Sheldon, 2012).
- Among children attending Head Start, ECE engagement practices were associated with both parental school engagement in Head Start center activities and in-home learning activities. The latter, which was indicated by shared book reading with the child, was associated with increases in child **vocabulary** (Hindman & Morrison, 2011).
- Parent engagement improves child outcomes by increasing learning time, enhancing child motivation and school commitment, and increasing expectations for achievement and **success** (Abenavoli, 2019; Reynolds & Temple, 2019).

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## Yes...in Children’s Lives

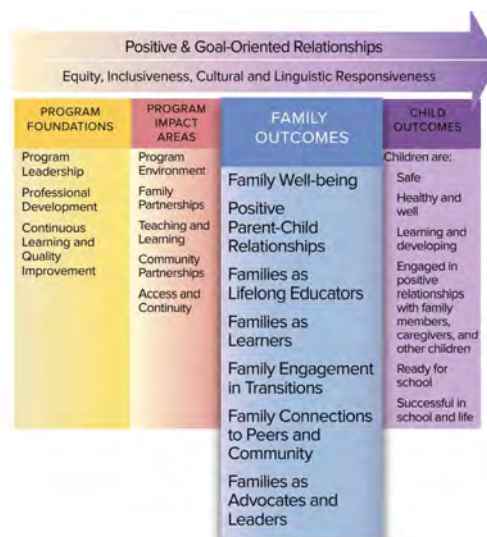
- Family-school interventions have a positive impact on children’s social-emotional outcomes (Sheridan et al., 2019).
- Protective factors within the family including family engagement, along with school context was consistently associated with reduced history of smoking in 22-24 year olds (Reynolds et al., 2019).
- Young children with higher average parenting engagement scores over time had 30% to 40% lower odds of developing depression in early adulthood (Cong et al., 2019).
- Family Support and engagement in early 2 generational programs lead to higher achievement and delinquency prevention (Jeynes, 2007).

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## The Impact on Families

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## Yes...in Achieving Family Outcomes: Key Messages

- Families have a critical opportunity to partner and learn about engagement with community and as advocates for their children
- Parents have an opportunity to engage and improve their parenting
- Parents have partnerships and supports to withstand and develop resilience to adversity
- Parents have an opportunity to consider their own learning and career goals

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## Yes...in Achieving Family Outcomes

- Head Start participation had an impact on **positive parenting behaviors**, especially for mothers without a high school degree (Bauer & Schanzenbach, 2016).
- Family well-being has a significant impact on school readiness and child outcomes into adulthood (ACES, 2015; 2018; McKelvey, Fitzgerald, Schiffman, & Eye, 2002; Williamson, et al., 1998)
- Families that continue to live in poverty risk a cluster of adversities related to basic need deprivation that in turn impact the child's ability to learn and develop across domains.

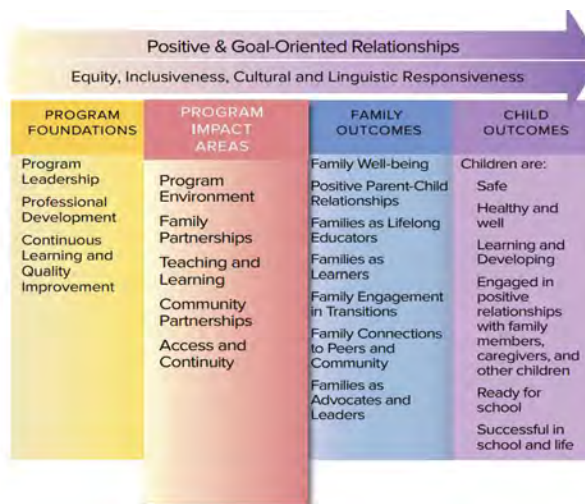
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## The Impact on Professionals and Programs

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## Yes...the Impact on Professionals: Key Messages

Family Engagement is Everybody's Business

**Why??? Because....**

Engaging Families makes for improved program climate, professional morale, and improved professional identity & confidence

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## Yes...the Impact on Professionals and Programs

- When parents engage with teachers and are involved in ECE settings they have the opportunity to share information with teachers about their children, which in turn enhances the quality of teacher–child interactions (Mashburn & Pianta, 2006).
- When parents build relationships with ECE professionals, they share knowledge with teachers about their children that in turn improves teacher–child relationships and instructional practices, leading to positive child development trajectories (Forry, et al., 2011).

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## Yes...the Impact on Professionals and Programs

- Family engagement reciprocally benefits staff who report **more job satisfaction** when they have **strong relationships with families; more rewarding alliances** with families, higher morale and **confidence** about their work (Epstein, 2009; Henderson & Berla, 1994; Swick, 2004); and feel **more equipped to communicate difficult information** (Reedy & McGrath, 2010; Ma., Shen, & Krenn, 2014).
- Family engagement is increasingly cited as a **critical aspect of high quality early care and K-12 education** (McWayne, 2016; Ginsburg-Block, 2010).

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## The Relationship-based Competencies Suite of Resources: A Guide to Best Practices



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## Skills Example: Family Service Professional Level, Relationship-based Practices

- Focus on the family-child relationship.
- Observe and describe the child's behavior to open communication with the family.
- Reflect on the family's individual and cultural perspectives.
- Reflect on your personal and cultural perspectives.
- Support parental competence (the parent's skills and self-confidence).
- Value a family's passion (working with both their positive and negative feelings).

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## Skill Example: Program Level “Family Engagement Is Everybody's Business”

- Organizational restructuring to include family-based conferencing across disciplines, evening options for staff to meet with parents, childcare offerings during parent meetings, team meetings & action plans for difficult issues with families
- Re-organization of fragmented family related services into a “Family Engagement Unit”
- Welcoming environments across cultures
- Mental health consultation expected
- Family service credential required

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## Skill Example: Program Level “Family Engagement Is Everybody's Business”

- Assigning family service workers to given classrooms & families; move with families during their stay in a program
- Inclusion of family engagement skills in hiring requirements for all staff
- Professional development for all staff about basic relationship-building engagement skills
- Parents as key participants in professional development and strategic planning
- Family Service professionals with key roles in the development & execution of parenting curricula
- Family Engagement coaching, reflective practice/supervision

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## Skill Example: Community Level “Family Engagement Is Our Community’s Business”

- Two-way community partnerships
- Head Start and Early Head Start as leaders of early childhood work in the community
- Multi-level partnerships with multiple agencies to form a network for young children & families
- Recruitment, enrollment, retention of vulnerable families
  - experiencing homeless
  - involved with child welfare and juvenile courts
  - experiencing inter-personal violence
  - with children with disabilities

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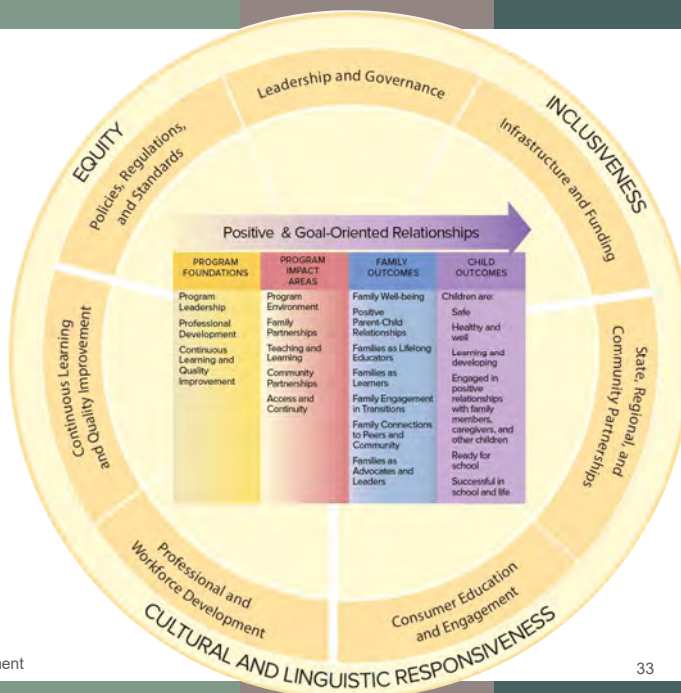
## Skill Example: Community Level “Family Engagement Is Our Community’s Business”

- Integrated work to maintain children with challenging behavior in classrooms through family work
- Community collaboration and services for pregnant women
- Community collaboration with families experiencing substance use disorder with attention to opioid crisis
- Families experiencing natural disasters
- Families living with COVID-19

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## The Impact on the Early Childhood Systems



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## Yes...for the Early Childhood Field Engagement Knowledge Status: 2020

Descriptions of and references to family engagement in:

- All 50 States have a description of Family Engagement
  - 48 States with reference to the HS PFCE Framework
  - 48 States with reference to NAEYC Principles
  - 29 States have fully developed PFCE Frameworks

All states have at least one family engagement quality indicator; many have 6+. Definitions or descriptions of family engagement in:

- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Child Care
- Home Visiting
- Child Welfare
- Early Intervention
- K through 12

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## Yes ... for the Early Childhood Field Engagement Knowledge Change: 2010 to 2020

- Research Publications: 8 times as many academic papers and books
- Practice Publications: from 50 in 2010 to over 1,000 in 2020
- Interest by Foundations: From 59 in 2010 to over 340 in 2020 (Foundation Directory)
- Head Start Program Performance Standards, PFCE Framework, Competencies
- Policy updates with focus on Family Engagement:
  - HS Program Performance Standards (2016);
  - Reauthorization of Child Care & Development Fund (2016);
  - Reauthorization of Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (2018)

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## Key Ingredients for Advancing Family and Community Engagement:

Guidance about how to do it  
and how to make it happen in  
programs and communities



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## Yes....Family Services Leadership Will Continue to Change the Field: How Can We Move Forward

- Step up, be present, and share your knowledge
- Understand best practices, coaching, mentoring, reflective practice
- Build and sustain an experienced Family Services workforce to address the complex needs of families
- Measure your success with rigor and specificity
- Provide the professional development and supervision with the tools now in the field

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## Coping with COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities

### CHALLENGES

- Safety
- Health - physical and mental
- Economic hardship
- Virtual medium of communication

### OPPORTUNITIES

PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES IS MORE CRITICAL THAN EVER

- Family as central to communication, safety, and care
- Family Services Professionals are the keepers of the skills; family-facing experts
- Professional Development

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## Family Engagement Is In!



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## Family Engagement and Family Services Professional Resource Topics

<p><b>Family Engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Partnerships</li> <li>• Community Partnerships</li> <li>• Dual Language Learners</li> <li>• <b>EICLRP</b></li> <li>• School Readiness                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Transition to Kindergarten</li> <li>○ Early Learning Outcomes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Relationship-based practices</li> <li>• Consumer Education and Engagement</li> <li>• Outreach</li> <li>• Father Engagement</li> <li>• Family Leadership and Advocacy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Family Support and Well-being</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homelessness</li> <li>• Economic Mobility</li> <li>• Emergency Response</li> <li>• Domestic Violence</li> <li>• Mental Health                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mental Health Consultation</li> <li>○ Trauma</li> <li>○ Depression</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Staff Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Credentialing</li> <li>• Staff Qualifications</li> <li>• Coaching and Reflective Practice</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Program Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal-setting</li> <li>• Using Data</li> </ul>	<p><b>EC Systems Building</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality</li> <li>• Workforce Development</li> <li>• Subsidy</li> <li>• Prevention and Response</li> </ul>
		<p><b>Parenting</b></p>
		<p><b>Pregnancy</b></p>

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## Resources

Please complete your

- Reflect and Plan Handout



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## Certificate of Completion




Media Player Slides Question & Answers Speaker Bios Resource List Call to Action Knowledge Check Certificate of Completion Help



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