

Description

The Family Engagement Conference is a strategic plan for Head Start programs. All Head Start staff regardless of their roles or responsibilities who attend the conference, will understand the PFCE framework and be able to implement the framework across systems and service areas that promote Head Start children's learning and development. Participants will find the conference useful in planning and implementing systematic, integrated parent engagement activities, help staff working with parents learn to analyze their effectiveness of current practices, train policy council members to engage staff and parents in a dialogue to create a profile of the program's parent engagement activities, help staff who are discouraged when parents don't come into the center for activities learn to gain fresh perspective on what parent engagement means, and guide staff who informally relate to families as they carry out their daily work to discover how each of their interactions with parents contribute to the family's engagement with the program.

Prerequisites

- None

Who Should Take This Course?

This course is designed for all staff. All Head Start staff directly involved with families, including staff working in the areas of family and community partnerships, education and early childhood development, and child health and development, teachers and caregivers as they conduct home visits and partner with parents to support children's development, program managers and coordinators as they help staff evaluate their skills and pursue plans for continuing professional development will also benefit from this conference.

Objectives

- ✓ Support parents as primary educators, nurturers and advocates for their children
- ✓ Ensure that every parent has an opportunity for a significant experience in Head Start
- ✓ Ensure that parents are involved in making policy decisions for their program
- ✓ Provide regular opportunities for parents to work together with staff and with other community members on activities they have helped develop and in which they have expressed an interest
- ✓ Provide opportunities for parents to enhance their parenting skills, to extend their knowledge and understanding of the educational and developmental needs of their children, and to share concerns about their children with program staff
- ✓ Respect each family's uniqueness, particularly in regard to their cultural and ethnic background
- ✓ Promote children's mental and physical wellness by providing group and individual parenting education in health, mental health, dental, and nutritional issues
- ✓ Help staff build upon their knowledge of how children learn and how parents' beliefs shape their children's learning

- ✓ Strengthen your understanding of specific techniques parents can use to enhance their children's learning
- ✓ Develop your skills in using home visits and parent-teacher conferences to support family learning
- ✓ Help you develop the skills and knowledge to support parents in selecting quality child care
- ✓ Apply the principles of family support to your daily work
- ✓ Demonstrate the skills necessary for forming supportive partnerships with family
- ✓ Develop creative approaches for providing support to families
- ✓ Assess your skills in working effectively with families and establish plans for professional development accordingly
- ✓ Identify elements and requirements of effective transition practices
- ✓ Support children and families preparing for and experiencing transition
- ✓ Develop transition practices to facilitate continuity between settings

Outline

Day 1

Defining Family Engagement

What is Family Engagement?
 Understanding PFCE framework and
 Head Start's vision
 Staff-Parent Connection

Individualizing Family Engagement

Getting parents involved
 Working effectively with parents
 Analyzing Activities
 Strengthening Family Engagement

Shared Responsibility

Paired Peers
 Working Together
 Shadowing

Defining Parenting Education

Parenting is like...
 What parents need to Know

Day 2

Focusing on Parents

The Influence of Family and Culture
 Listening to Fathers
 Myths About Men
 Talking with Teens and Grandparents
 Parenting Across Ages

Moving Forward with Parents

Pinpointing your program's strengths
 Creating parenting education programs
 Adapting Resources
 Planning Parenting Education
 Opportunities

Parents are First Teachers

Learning about Learning
 How Young children Learn
 Reflecting on our Learning
 Environments
 Supportive Elements of Family Learning

Day 3

Observing Family Learning

Enriching Language and Problem
 Solving
 Listening to your program staff
 Mediating Messages
 Children are listening all the time
 Observing Parenting styles

Supporting Family Learning Goals

Parent-Teacher Conferences
 Planning for Parent-Teacher
 Conferences
 Planning Home Visits Together
 A Five-Step Planning Process
 Supporting Family Literacy

Advocating for Quality Care

Defining Quality in Child Care
 Locating Resources
 Researching Good resources

What is Family Support?

Examining Ways of Working with
 Families
 Applying the Principles of Family
 Support
 Identifying Strategies and Skills to
 Family Support

Day 4

Essential Skills for working with Families

Demonstrating Supportive Behaviors
 Developing Skills in Partnership Talk
 Practicing Partnership Talk
 Joining with a Family
 Addressing Challenging Behaviors

Assessing Family Strengths

Defining Family Strengths
 Exploring Family Strengths

Practicing the Skill of Reframing
Identifying Key Players in the Lives of
Families

Partnering with Families

Family Partnership Agreements
Strategies for Working as a Family
Partners

Family Development & Growth

Family Growth
Family Responsibilities

Setting and Achieving Family Goals

Identifying Family Goals
Achieving the Family's Goals

Day 5

Professionalism

Developing Professionalism
Record-Keeping and Recording Contact
Information

Transition and Change

The Change Process
Transitioning Process
Expectations and Supporting
Developmental Needs
Going to Kindergarten

Transition and Continuity

Sharing Information
Partner Meeting
Setting Characteristics
Preparing the Child and Family

Partnerships for Continuity

Setting a Common Ground
Finding a Partner
Collaboration