

Core Element

Family/Caregiver Engagement

Family/Caregiver Engagement

- Does this happen to you?
 - Plan a big, general transition events and only one or two parents show up
 - Send letters/permission slips home and you get no response
 - Parents do not show up for IEP meetings
 - You spend hours on newsletters, parent handbooks, information packets and parents never seem to read them

Family/Caregiver Engagement

- What works?
 - Personal relationship with school personnel
 - Personal invitation (voice rather than paper)
 - Showcase their son/daughter (make it relevant)
 - Let them know how important their presence is to you and their child, then be sure it is important
 - Have food!
 - Location (central and safe)

Family/Caregiver Engagement

- What works?
 - Family members welcome
 - Thank you follow up for attending
 - Provide opportunities for family networking
 - Communicate positive news, monthly progress reports
 - Meet outside of school hours
 - Celebrations of transition success

Family/Caregiver Engagement

- Make IEP meetings count, get releases signed, identify OVR,MR staff/services
- Form interagency team around their child and offer to meet regularly (more that once a year)
- Form a parent Advisory Board
- When presenting to parents, include parents in the presentation/and or planning
- Use Parent Satisfaction Surveys at all events, review the results, make adjustments, share good ones with other parents

Family/Caregiver Engagement

- Be sure parents know names of job coaches and other staff who are working with their child
- Staff need to make e-mail address and cell phone available to students, & parents
- Partner with other agencies who do serve parents
 - Right to Ed Task Force, the ARC, etc.
- Have Parent link on webpage

Family/Caregiver Engagement

- Why did Educators need family engagement?
 - Permissions/ training agreement
 - Physicals/work permits
 - Documentation (birth certificate, Social Security Card)
 - Liability
 - Hygiene issues
 - Travel/transportation issues
 - Loss of social security
 - Absences / call off procedures
 - Fear of letting go, self determination
 - Follow through with adult agency eligibility

Family/Caregiver Engagement

Resources Included on this Wiki Site:

- Looking for Work - Tips for Parents
- Introduction Letter to Parents
- Sample Letters to Parents
- Parent Transition Survey
- Parental Communication Log
- Parent Transition Handbook