**Bringing the Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework to Your Program: Beginning a Self-Assessment**

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**Objectives**

- Develop a common understanding of the Program Foundations & Program Impact Areas of the PFCE Framework.
- Learn how PFCE practices can be embedded throughout your program.
- Begin using the PFCE Framework Self-Assessment to regularly assess PFCE aspects of your program.

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**What do we mean by Family Engagement?**

- Parent, family and community engagement means building relationships with families that support family well-being, strong parent-child relationships and ongoing learning and development of parents and children alike.
- It refers to the beliefs, attitudes, behaviors and activities of families that support their children’s positive development from early childhood through young adulthood.
- Family engagement happens in the home, early childhood program, school and community, and is a shared responsibility with all those who support children’s learning.

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**PFCE Framework**

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**Beginning a Self-Assessment Guide**

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Today, we hope that you will “Take a Moment to Think”; and will be inspired with a renewed spirit of collaboration with families and community partners.

We hope you will feel energized as you, your staff, your families, and community partners come together to take next steps in parent, family and community engagement practices.

What Research Tells Us ...

“Among the youngest children, daily parent-child reading prompts cognitive skills as well as early vocabulary gains that lead to more reading and vocabulary growth, a ‘snowballing’ growth pattern.”


What Research Tells Us ...

“Continued family engagement is important through the school years. Longitudinal studies of low-income children show that high family involvement offsets the risks of children growing up in low-income households and households with low parent education.”


What do we mean by Family:

Family is an enduring relationship, whether biological or non-biological, chosen or circumstantial, connecting a child/youth and parent/caregiver through culture, tradition, shared experiences, emotional commitment, and mutual support.

Effective PFCE is ...

• shaped by families, programs and communities working together to co-construct opportunities for engagement that are most appropriate for families in their community;
• built upon a foundation of mutual respect and trust among families and staff;
• individualized for each family and developed over time to deepen and broaden their engagement in the program and the early learning of their children;

“Children with supportive home learning environments show increased literacy, better peer interactions, fewer behavior problems and more motivation and persistence.”


Effective PFCE is ...

- focused on the strengths of children and families and built on those strengths to create a growth-oriented path toward enhanced family well-being and optimal educational outcomes for children;
- based upon a strong understanding of how children’s behavior and development present predictable challenges to family functioning as well as to family-program relationships;
- shaped by genuine respect for the culture and linguistic diversity of the families enrolled, and the importance of actively valuing and incorporating the richness of this diversity into the program’s institutional culture, physical surroundings, learning environment and social interactions between and among children, families and staff;
- supportive of children and families with disabilities so that they can fully participate in the program and benefit from family and community engagement opportunities;

Effective PFCE is ...

- aware and respectful of families as capable, competent partners in their children’s development even when they are struggling with adversity; and
- achieved through effective leadership and management, ongoing training, support and self-reflection of program staff, established protocol that reflects a commitment to engagement and an organizational culture that prioritizes families.

Systemic PFCE

Systemic means that parent, family and community engagement is anchored in leadership priorities, program management, continuous improvement systems, and staff development.

Integrated PFCE

Integrated refers to the fact that to be effective, PFCE activities are carried out throughout the entire organization. For example, directors, teachers, assistant teachers, family support staff, home visitors, health and disabilities staff all play a role in engaging families and supporting school readiness.
Comprehensive PFCE

In a comprehensive approach, the full range of strengths, interests and needs of the adults and children in a family are considered and staff support families by connecting them with services and resources to achieve their goals.

Take a Moment to Think ...

About your Program’s PFCE efforts in light of the PFCE Framework priorities.

- Do you adopt a systemic, integrated and comprehensive approach?
- Do leaders communicate the value, goals and performance expectations of PFCE?

Take a Moment to Think ...

- Does staff focus on family goals and use data for continuous learning and improvement?
- Do you provide ongoing training and support so that all staff and volunteers develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions to partner with families?

Take a Moment to Think ...

- Does your program create a welcoming, respectful and culturally and linguistically responsive environment? Does staff engage families to co-develop goals and strategies that promote family well-being, positive parenting, families as lifelong educators and learners, family engagement in transitions, connections to peers and community, and families as advocates and leaders?

Take a Moment to Think ...

- Do you build community partnerships that focus on achieving family and child outcomes?
- Do you ensure that families have opportunities to promote child development and learning in the home, early childhood programs and transitions to new learning environments?
**Program Foundations**

- **Program Leadership**
  - Ambitious goals and high expectations
  - Collaborative decision-making
  - Parent, family and community engagement is a shared priority for all staff.

- **Continuous Program Improvement**
  - Data about parent, family and community engagement efforts and outcomes drive decision-making

- **Professional Development**
  - High quality training for all staff
  - Cross-service area teams

**Program Impact Areas**

- **Teaching and Learning**
  - Parents partner to support children's learning and development
  - Supporting families as lifelong educators
  - Supporting positive parent-child relationships
  - Support for transitions

- **Community Partnerships**
  - Commitment to social support systems within programs and with larger community
  - Collaborative relationships for comprehensive services

**Program Impact Areas**

1. **Program Environment**
2. **Family Partnerships**
3. **Teaching and Learning**
4. **Community Partnerships**

With a solid PFCE foundation in place, program leadership and staff are set to work in partnership with parent, families, & the community on activities that promote family engagement and work towards family goals.
Continuous Improvement

Your Turn to ...

Take a Moment to Think - Exercise

1. Each Group/Table will be given one (1) Program Foundation or one (1) Program Impact Area.
2. Use the Reflection questions to help you focus on how your program can best support systemic, integrated and comprehensive PFCE.
3. Individually joint down your thoughts about what you are already doing that you’d like to celebrate, challenges that you need to face, and new ideas about what you will do to move your program towards effective PFCE.
4. Share out with your group, then using chart paper combine your responses to share out with the entire group: celebrations, challenges, and moving forward.

Moving Forward

Bringing the Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework to Your Program: Beginning a Self-Assessment is meant to help you start thinking about the changes you can make in partnership with program staff, families and community partners to meet the promise of the PFCE Framework.

Moving Forward

Change can be exciting.
For many of us, change is also unsettling.
For example, it may be a challenge to:
• find time for busy team members to meet;
• come to consensus on priority areas to address;
• decide on realistic goals;
• identify steps;
• agree on a realistic time frame; and
• acknowledge signs of progress.
To Overcome Challenges

- Create a shared vision of the future when parents, families and community partners are engaged and the benefits for children, families, the community and program staff and leadership are realized;
- Build trust and promote a sense of collaboration among family members, community partners and program staff and leadership;

And Remember ...

“You and your program are in a unique position to promote children’s well-being – today and in the future – by engaging their parents and families.
Parents and family members are the “forever” people in a child’s life. They will shape their child’s sense of self, others and the world over the years and across the miles.”

NCPFCE Leadership Team and Staff

To Overcome Challenges

- Keep communication flowing so that decisions are recorded and partners who may miss a meeting can stay informed; and
- Return regularly to the vision and its benefits to keep challenges in perspective.

Thank You ...

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