

Building Meaningful Relationships with the Families of At-Risk Students

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Before we begin....

1. What are some of the needs of your at-risk students and their families?
2. What are some of the barriers that you see as preventing these needs from being met?
3. What are some intervention strategies that you have found to be effective at meeting these students' and families' needs?

Create a list of the NEEDS, BARRIERS, and INTERVENTIONS. When you are finished, write 1 of each on the board (if your response is taken, place a check mark next to it). We will be briefly sharing these with the group.

NEEDS	BARRIERS	INTERVENTIONS

A Little Bit About Project Purpose

1. Find out more about our mission and organization at www.project-purpose.org
2. Contact Rachel Yehl- Rachel@project-purpose.org

Engaging Families requires LUV

1. Listen
 - Through Listening to families, we learn their needs. Share some needs of your students and families.
2. Understand
 - Empathy is a research based strategy.
3. Validate
 - Where is their truth in what the parent is saying or doing? Tell the parent!

A Human Centered Approach to Family Engagement

1. Listening to the needs allows us to identify the correct and most meaningful interventions

2. According to the researchers at *Harvard Family Research Project Theory Framework for Family Engagement...*

- a. Research proves that Empathy is an effective intervention for engaging families
- b. A “human-centered” approach focuses on developing empathy and putting oneself in another’s place, imagining what that person feels and experiences.
- c. For those seeking to engage families, this approach might prompt several questions:
 1. What do parents and family members see, hear, and feel when they enter an early childhood program, school, or afterschool program?
 2. How do parents see teachers?
 3. What do parents hear from and feel about teachers?

d. “A human-centered approach pulls rather than pushes families to school. By observing and listening to families, understanding where they are ready to invest their time, and giving them the opportunity to lead, schools and other educational entities can, as our example shows, create the conditions that facilitate engagement. As these organizations seek to address equity issues, human-centered design has the potential to create opportunities that pull families that are traditionally left out” (Harvard Family Research Project, 2017).

3. What are the intervention strategies your school is using that are connected to *A Human Centered Approach to Family Engagement?*

Case Study

1. Break into groups of 3 or 4 based on your grade level (Elementary, Middle and High School, Special Education). We will all be analyzing the same case study, but through the eyes of our students.

2. Read Tim’s Case Study

3. Answer as a group...

1. What does Tim’s Mother Maureen see, hear, and feel when she enters an early childhood program, school, or afterschool program?

2. How does Maureen see teachers?

3. What does Maureen hear from and feel about teachers?

4. What might be some potential intervention strategies that could engage this family?

References

Harvard Family Research Project. (2017). *Overview of family involvement*. Retrieved from <http://www.hfrp.org/family-involvement/overview>