

ELL Families & You

A Comprehensive Presentation
for the Inclusion of the Families
of English Language Learners

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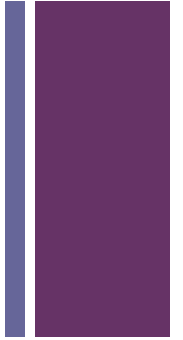


Agenda

- Objective
 - Topics
 - Activity
- Wrap-up



Objectives



- Identify and address issues with family involvement of English Language Learners.
- Become acquainted with techniques for working with the family of ELLs to ensure student success.
- Ideas for creating programs to increase family involvement



Topics



- Issues With Family Involvement
- Need for Family Involvement
- Strategies for Increasing Family Involvement
- Essential Elements of Effective Family Involvement Programs

Myths About ELL Families Only Perpetuate Problems

- Minorities are at a disadvantage
- There is a cultural mismatch
- Traditional agrarian cultures are at a disadvantage

Reality

- Values are a source of emotional support and personal identity
- School routines may be at odds with students' cultural values



Barriers of Success

- Subtractive Bilingualism/Language Segregation
- Nonacademic Tracks

Keys to Success



- Respect for ELL's language and culture
- Additive Bilingualism



School-Family

Issues

- Language
- Family Structure and Needs
- Educational Background and Values
- Knowledge About Education/Beliefs About Learning
- Power and Status
- Family Overinvolvement

Communication

- Lack of consultation regarding events
- Feeling intimidated
- Feeling patronized
- Feeling suspicious
- Feeling angry



Why do we need to develop a relationship with the ELL's family?

- Positive attitude towards school
- Positive attitude towards the teacher
- Increased motivation
- Follow-through on homework
- Higher academic achievement
- Strengthens the learning community

Makes your job easier!

“All parents have the fundamental right to the schools support for the home language.”

Increasing Communication (Building Rapport)

- Positive non-verbal gestures-----SMILE!!!
- Community Liaison
- Positive initial communication



Later...

Family-Teacher Conferences

Hire an interpreter

Record contact with parents

Keep a positive tone of voice to appreciate family's involvement



Other Ways

Family Education Programs
Home to School Communication
Academic Teaching/Learning at Home
Decision Making

Roles a Family Member Can Play

Community Liaison
Class aide
Organize Community Service Projects
Organize Extra-curricular Activities

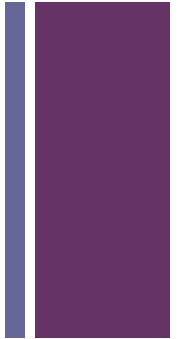


Programs will be successful if:

- Mutual respect
- Open communication
- Cultural understanding
- Focus on the learning community and NOT individuals
- Appropriate accommodations are made
- Personalism



Activity Time

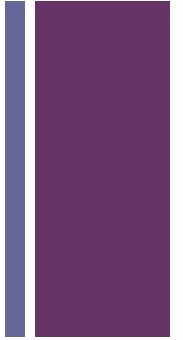


Without talking, arrange yourselves in ascending order by birth day
For example, I was born on the 7th day of the month

This time, nominate one person to talk and do the activity again
allowing the talking person to do the arranging by directing



Reflection



- Was it difficult to try to figure out where to go/what to do?
- Even though only one person could talk was it easier the second time?
- Did you become frustrated or angry when you weren't able to figure it out?
- How has your perception of not being able to communicate changed how you will handle non-English speakers in the future?



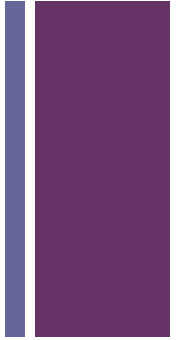
Program Ideas



- Family Fun Night- Create 1 night per month to get families together. Make it a pot luck with games
- Teacher/Student/Family Breakfast
- Do class/family community service project together



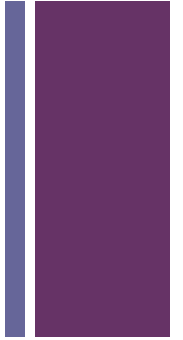
Wrap-Up



- Creating a community of learners in which the family is involved is important
- Being open minded and finding creative ways to communicate to your ELL's family will strengthen your teaching experience



Bibliography



- Balderrama, Maria V., & Diaz-Rico, Lynne T. (2006). *Teaching Performance Expectations for Educating English Learners*. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.