





Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of Engaging Families!




Let us introduce ourselves



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Michigan's Family Engagement History



- Michigan Department of Education
- Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
- Governor's Office
- Parent Action for Healthy Kids



- ✓ State System & Policy Level
- ✓ Michigan Health and Education Partnership
- ✓ Intermediate Level
- ✓ Local Level



- Whole Child
- Safe & Supportive Schools
- Safe Schools Healthy Students
- Every Child Succeeds Act
- MDE Top 10 in 10

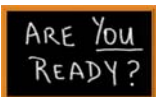
THE TIPPING POINT

Department of Education Safe & Supportive Schools (S3) Grant

Family Engagement Outcomes across 22 low performing High Schools

- **Mandatory** Family Engagement Professional Development (PD)
- **86%** participated in family engagement offerings beyond the initial required PD
- **73%** reported family engagement strategies were being implemented or likely to be implemented
- **14%** showed statistically significant progress

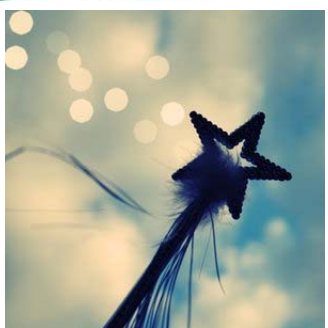
We are so happy to share!



- ✓ What's our story about families
- ✓ Assessment tool to determine readiness
- ✓ Quick technique for mindful engagement
- ✓ 5 Critical Components for engaging families

All this and more is downloadable on the conference web site

Make a Wish!



Problems are familiar! Solutions are not!



"People in distress will sometimes prefer a problem that is familiar to a solution that is not." Neil Postman, *The End of Education*

Family



The Perfect Parent





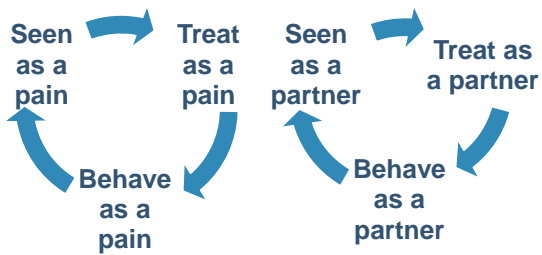
About Families?

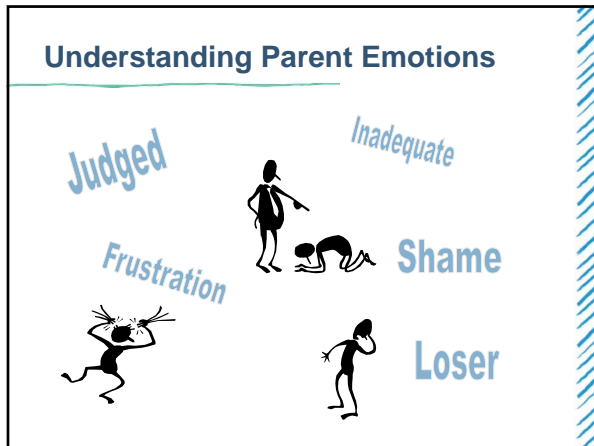
Stories are powerful!

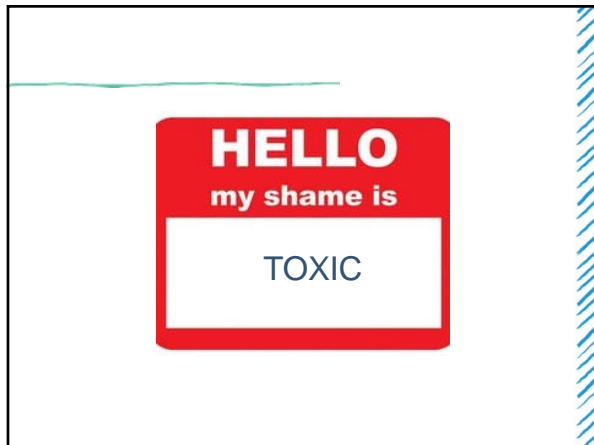
- Is it true?
- Is it necessary?
- Is it kind?

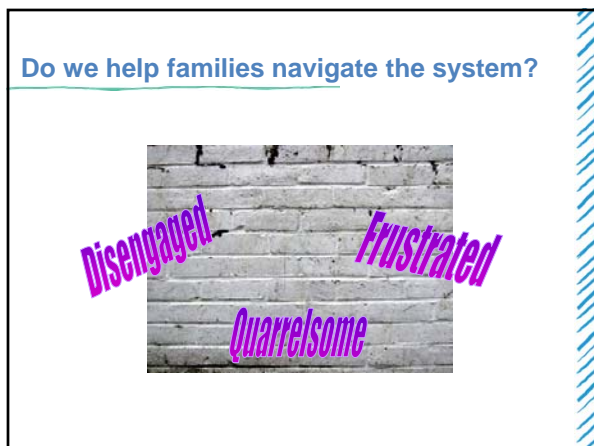


Parent Paradigm









Symptoms of Conflict

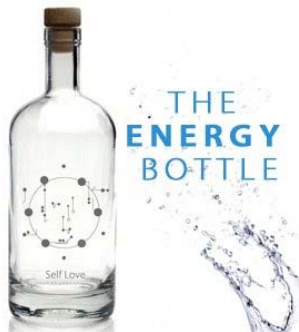
- **Judging**
 - Someone for who they are
- **Characterizing**
 - Them for what they do
- **Attributing**
 - Motives to explain why they do it
- **Dictating**
 - Solutions to perceived problem


Source: D.B. Moore 2004

Choose Words Carefully

- Need to → • Want to
- Have to → • Choose to
- Should → • Could

How do you choose to use your energy?



 **Re-frame**

How do we get Families to be a part of our work!

↓


How do we let Families be a part of our work!

Build a strong foundation!



How do we measure up?

- What are our current attitudes and beliefs about engaging families?
- How can the bond be strengthened
- What actions would demonstrate inclusiveness for family?



Family Engagement Perception Instrument (FEPI)

- Six question instrument
- Validity and reliability testing
- Assess providers who serve children and families in any setting
- Users Guide
- Self scoring instructions with action steps

I learned in this process the importance of stepping back to evaluate our assumption, that providers' are functioning with positive beliefs and attitudes about families. Liz Newell

Family Engagement Perception Instrument (FEPI)

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PERCEPTION INSTRUMENT DESCRIPTION
 The purpose of this tool is to assess your perceptions of creating and maintaining partnerships with families. Please fill in shared personal information.

Age: _____ Gender: _____ Profession: _____ No. of years in field: _____

Instructions: Please indicate the degree to which you agree with each statement. Please circle your choice. The term "provider" refers to any person and/or organization at the state, regional or local level that provides direct or indirect services to children and their families and/or has decision-making authority that affects children and families.

1. Families desire to be involved in their child's care and education.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

2. Creating a partnership between the provider and family has a positive impact on the child.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

3. It is the responsibility of the provider to ensure that the environment is welcoming to families.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

4. The provider has a responsibility to address system barriers that prevent families from receiving services that support the well-being of their children.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

5. Providers would benefit from professional development on family engagement.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

6. The benefits of developing partnerships with families are not worth the time and effort.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

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Leading and Serving with Positive Intention

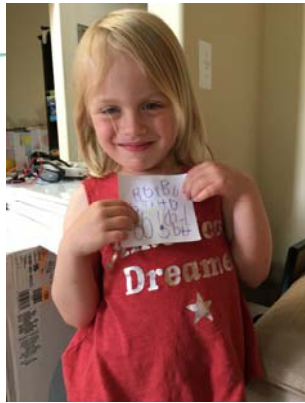


Lizard Push-up



Source: Wendy Palmer, Leadership Embodiment

Smile



5

Critical Components for engaging families authentically

1. **Commitment** to full partnerships with families
2. **Transparent Relationship** – Be willing and able to speak and hear the truth
3. **Share responsibility for student success** – Operate without blame or criticism
4. **Acceptance** – An absence of focusing on fixing or changing
5. **Appreciation** – Done in a genuine and demonstrable way.


Engaging Families Mindfully



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The shift in mindset is key!
Shawn Cannarile, SS/HS State Coordinator

Thank You!



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