



HEAD START

Regional T/TA Network

Building on Family Strengths during Challenging Times

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Region III Training and Technical Assistance

Session Objectives



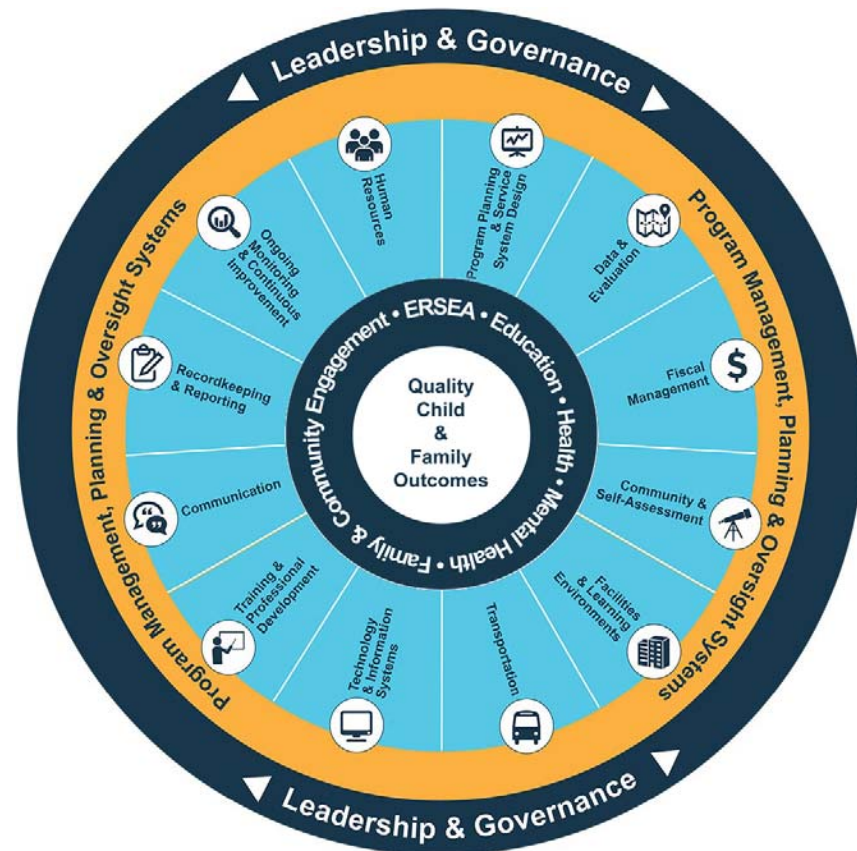
Participants will:

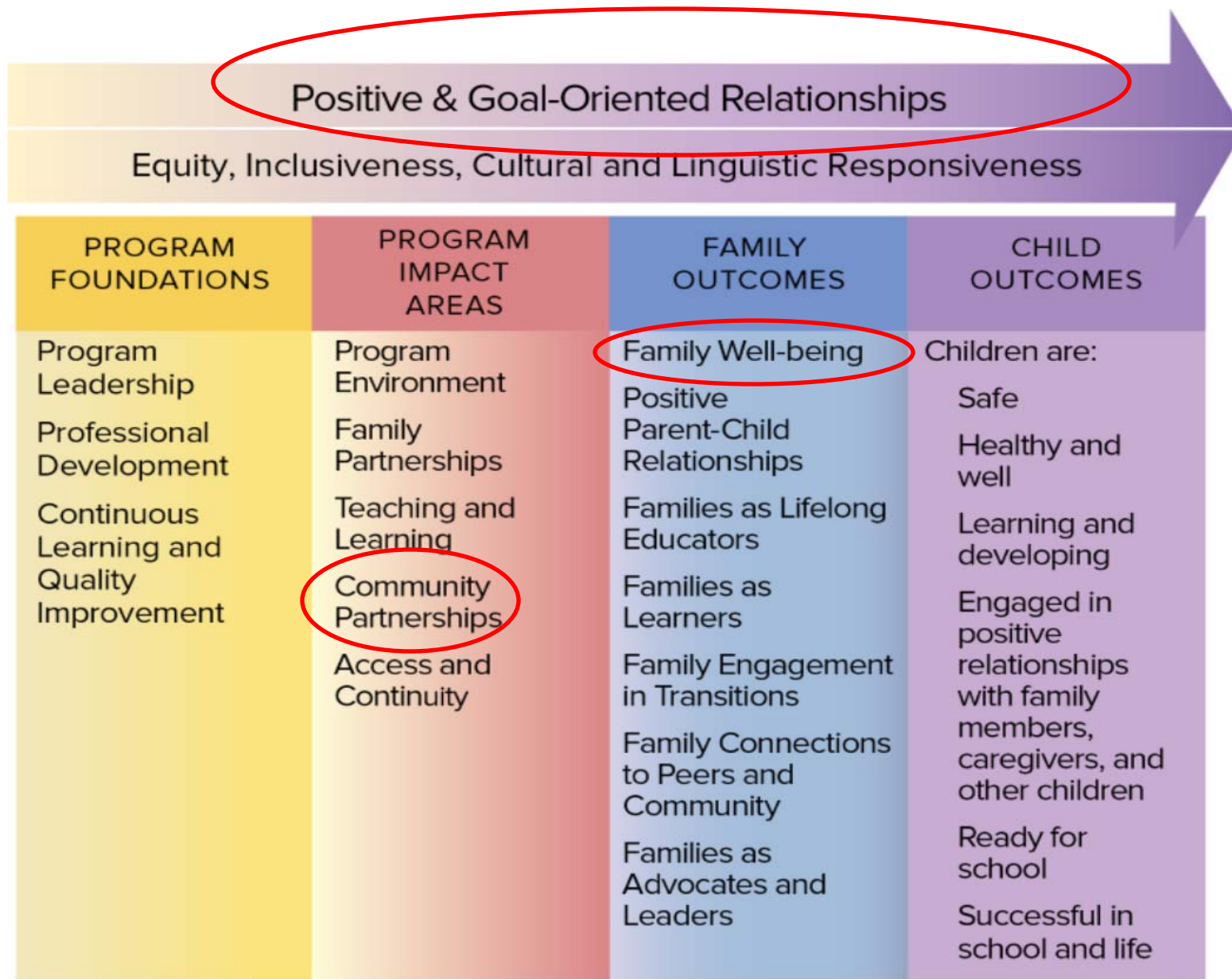
- Explore the PFCE Family Well-being outcome and HSPPS for supporting and engaging families
- Identify strategies for recognizing and building on family strengths using Relationship-Based Competencies and culturally sensitive approaches
- Identify strategies for building a network of community resources to support families
- Examine personal assumptions about families' experiences and maintain professional boundaries

1302.50 Family engagement.



Purpose. A program must integrate parent and family engagement strategies into all systems and program **services to support family well-being** and promote children's learning and development. Programs are encouraged to develop innovative two-generation approaches that **address prevalent needs** of families across their program that may **leverage community partnerships** or other funding sources.





Community Partnerships



- Community Assessment results
- Community resources and needs
 - Transitions to Kindergarten
 - Resources for crisis and emergency planning



Family Well-being Outcome



- Safety and Stability
- Personal Safety
- Health
- Financial Security



1302.50 Family engagement.



(2) Develop **relationships** with parents and structure services to encourage **trust and respectful, ongoing two-way communication** between staff and parents to create welcoming program environments that incorporate the unique cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds of families in the program and community;

Strength-Based Approach



Deficit-Based Approach

Professional is the “expert” who will “fix” the problem

Major focus is on what is wrong, what is not working

Professional identifies what caused the problem

Families are told how to “treat” the problem



Strength-Based Approach

Families and staff develop a partnership

Major focus is on what Families want and need

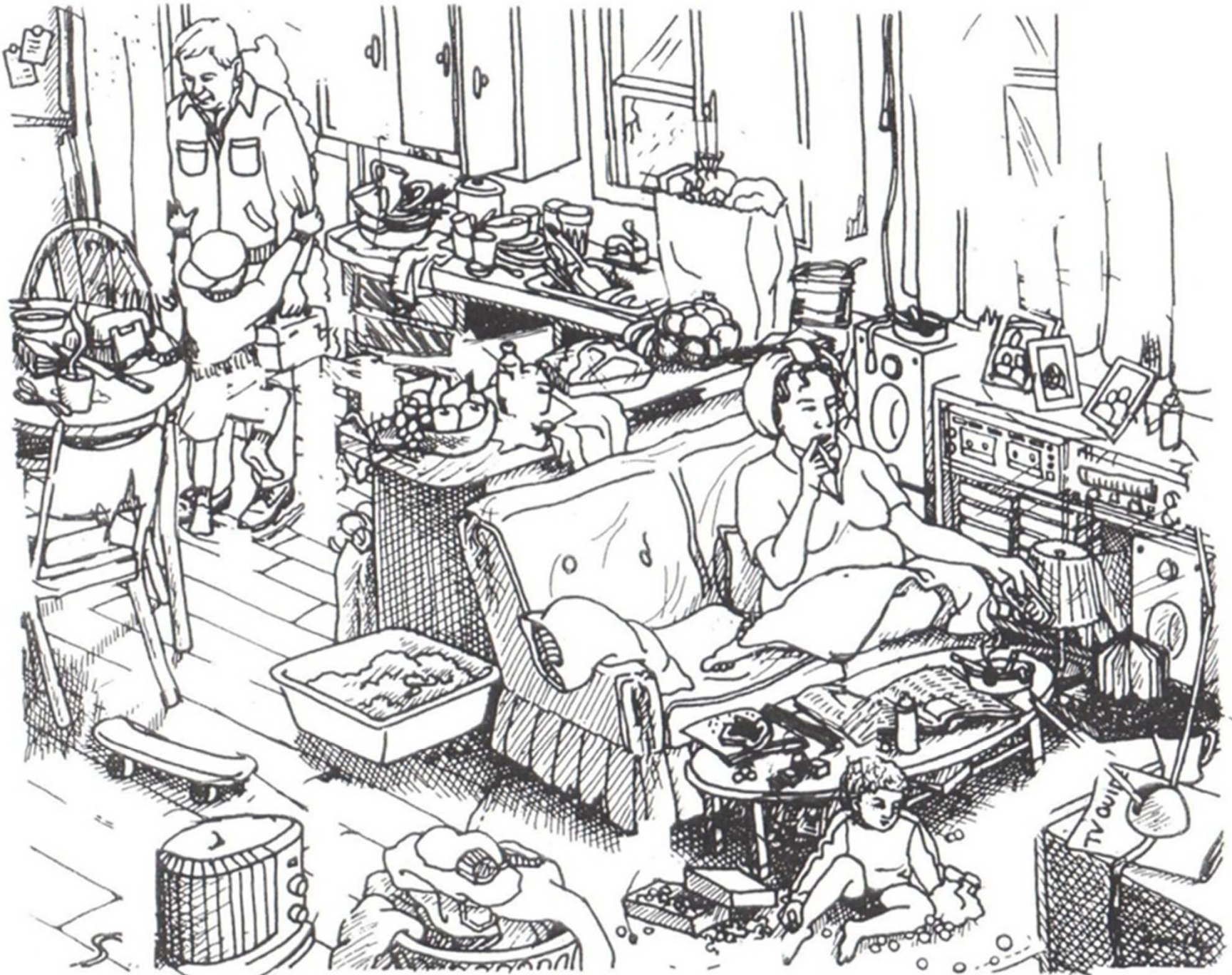
Staff build on Families’ strengths and capacities

Staff support families in reaching goals identified by them

“Family First” Language



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Artist: Camille Doucet

1302.50 Family engagement.



(3) **Collaborate** with families in a family partnership process that identifies needs, interests, strengths, goals, and services and resources that support family well-being, including family safety, health, and economic stability;

Five Strategies for Partnering with Families



- Reflect on your perspective.
- Help the family identify and work through their own assumptions.
- Identify and build on the family's strengths and core relationships.
- Celebrate successes while acknowledging struggles.
- Focus on their core values and aspirations, including important goals they are working toward. Explore their perspectives.

NCPFCE

Reflect on your perspective.



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Help the family identify and work through their own assumptions.



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Identify and build on the family's strengths and core relationships.



Strengths Perspective



The Strengths Perspective emphasizes the human capacity for resilience, resistance, courage, thriving, and ingenuity, and it champions the rights of individuals and communities to form and achieve their own goals and aspirations. While acknowledging the difficulties that clients experience, the Strengths Perspective never limits people to their traumas, problems, obstacles, illness, or adversity; rather, it addresses them as challenges, opportunities, and motivators for change.

Kentucky University - School of Social Welfare

Celebrate successes while acknowledging struggles.



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Focus on their core values, aspirations, and goals.



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Head Start and Early Head Start Relationship-Based Competencies

for Staff and Supervisors Who Work with Families



Relationship-Based Competencies



1. Positive, goal-oriented relationships
2. Self aware and culturally responsive relationships
3. Family well-being and families as learners
4. Parent-child relationships and families as lifelong educators
5. Family connections to peers and community
6. Family access to community resources
7. Coordinated, integrated and comprehensive services
8. Data driven services and continuous improvement
9. Foundations for professional growth

What Can Programs Do?



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- Gather information
- Offer individualized support
- Provide targeted information, resources, and trainings
- Develop community partnerships

Community Resources



- Small group activity
- Identify community resources and possible partnerships to support families in crisis
- Prepare to share out



Professional Boundaries



- We, as the professionals, set the boundaries with each family
- To be successful, we need good boundaries.
- Without boundaries, we lose our objectivity.
- Without objectivity we can't use proper judgment and fully serve the families.
- We can't expect families to set the boundaries.

Healthy Boundary Zone



We view boundaries with families on a continuum. It is important to be aware of drifting in either direction.

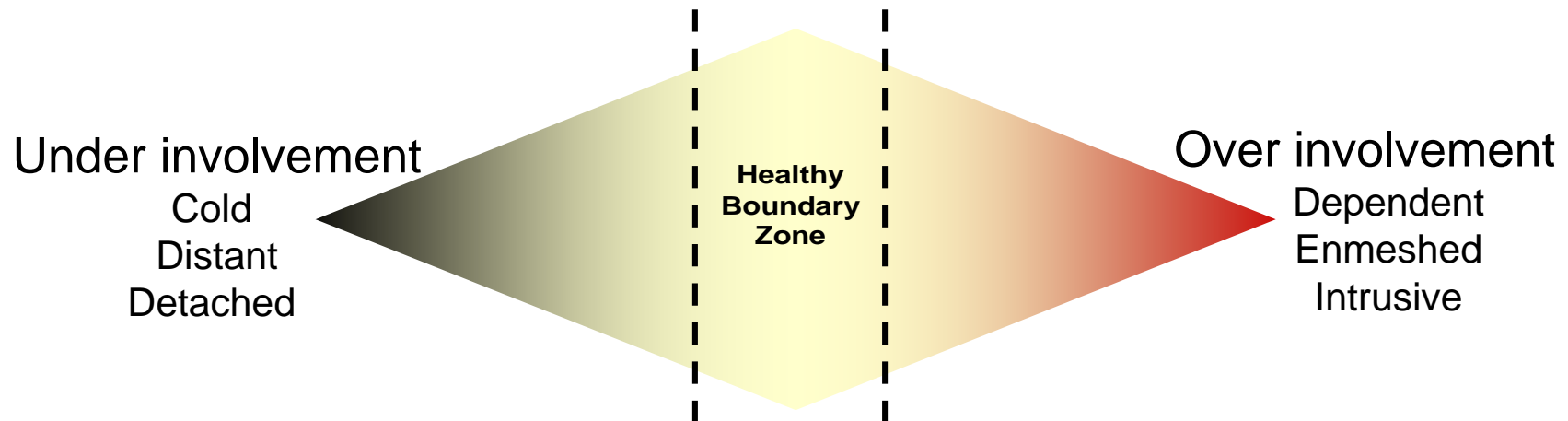


Diagram adapted from ideas from Brenda Hall, Nursing Council of New Zealand and NCSBN ideas

Sources



- Starting with Strengths in Challenging Times
 - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-engagement/learning-module/starting-strengths-challenging-times>
- PFCE Framework
 - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/pfce-interactive-framework>
- Family Well-being
 - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/rtp-family-well-being.pdf>

Additional Resources



- Strength-Based Attitudes
 - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-engagement/developing-relationships-families/strength-based-attitudes>
- Relationship-Based Practices
 - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-engagement/developing-relationships-families/relationship-based-practices>
- Understanding Family Engagement Outcomes: Research to Practice Series
 - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-engagement/article/understanding-family-engagement-outcomes-research-practice-series>



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