


HEAD START
 Regional T/TA Network

What's L.O.V.E.® Got To Do With It?
Engaging Parents Through Their Passion for Their Children



These materials were developed for OHS/Region III under Contract No. HHSP233201500099C by ICF Inc.
 Region III ACF Office of Head Start: 801 Market Street, Philadelphia PA, 19107 / TTA Office: 215-961-4017

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Learning Objectives


Participants will:


- explore the difference between involvement and engagement of families;
- explore strategies to promote family engagement; and
- consider the crucial role of L.O.V.E.

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Family Engagement-VS-Family Involvement



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Involvement



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Engagement



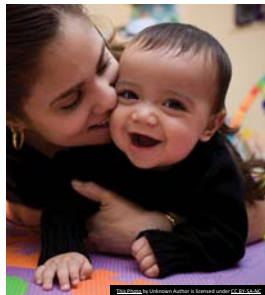
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Family Engagement Ideas



- Building goal-directed relationships with families
- A set of beliefs, attitudes, behaviors and activities
- Crossing contexts - at home, in the early childhood program, school & community
- A shared responsibility



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When We Actively Engage Families...



- **Children** will be healthier and more ready for kindergarten
- **Families** will be more engaged in your program and in the public school
- **Programs** will achieve higher levels of quality
- **Communities** will provide stronger supports to the next generation



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HS Program Performance Standards



1302.50 Family Engagement

(a) 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.

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HS Program Performance Standards



(b) Family engagement approach. A program must:

(1) Recognize parents as their children's primary teacher and nurturers and implement intentional strategies to **engage** parents in their children's learning and development and support parent-child relationships, including specific strategies for further 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;

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Engaging Families



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Distant Learning



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Innovation & Creativity



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Virtual Home Visits



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Share a successful family engagement opportunity that you have participated in (face to face or virtually) or hosted at your program.

What were the key ingredients that made the event successful?



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L.O.V.E.®



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH L.O.V.E.®



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Listening To Families



Active listening involves ears, head and ♥.

Beware of signals that you're not listening.

- Bias/ Anger
- Environmental distractions
- Short attention span
- Rehearsed responses
- Daydreaming
- Hot words- pressing people's buttons
- Filtering – tuning out families

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Observing Families



“What you did not say, speaks louder than what you did say.” – unknown

- Assessments of family progress towards goals must be made often.
- Let families know that you've noticed their success.

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Valuing Families



“To linger in the observation of things other than the self implies a profound conviction of their worth.”
Charles-Damian Boulogne

Demonstrate that you value the family:

- By simple compliments
- By acknowledging their scheduling needs and
- By helping them work towards their goals

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Encouraging Parents



“Flatter me, and I may not believe you. Criticize me, and I may not like you. Ignore me, and I may not forgive you. Encourage me, and I will not forget you.”
-William Arthur Ward

- Offer support
- Actively listen
- Invite families to get involved
- Facilitate access to resources

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Think about a time that you have engaged a family or family member in your program.

Using the hearts of L.O.V.E describe how you used each of the letters during that engagement.



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Family Engagement Tips



- **Listen** to the needs of families
- **Listen** to what families have to offer; build on their strengths
- **Listen** to families’ past experiences
- **Observe** and understand the challenges families are facing
- **Observe** the families’ cultures and beliefs



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Family Engagement Tips



- **Value** families for their unique strengths and experiences
- **Value** families as partners in supporting their child's development
- **Encourage** every families' ability to be positive role models for their child
- **Encourage** families to attend training and workshops and share information with others



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Engagement with L.O.V.E.



"A parent who has the tools to make appropriate decisions about the healthcare of their child has been given self-esteem.....when a person has self-esteem, they can move a mountain. Mountains have been moved in the lives of the families that I work with.....through health education with L.O.V.E. That is THE answer!"
- EHS Health Manager



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References



Content adapted from UCLA Health Care Institute; What's L.O.V.E.® Got To Do With It?
Ariella Herman, Ph.D. - UCLA Anderson School
National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness

Content adapted from Bringing the Head Start PFCE Framework to your Program.
National Center of Parent, Family and Community Engagement

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Resources



Staff Resources for Remote Services

Link: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/about-us/coronavirus/staff-resources-remote-services>

Head Start Parent Family Community Engagement Framework

Link: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/head-start-parent-family-community-engagement-framework>

Virtual Learning at Home in Early Head Start and Head Start

Link: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/virtual-learning-home-early-head-start-head-start>

Using the Family Partnership Process to Support Virtual Learning in the Home

Link: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/using-family-partnership-process-support-virtual-learning-home>

Family Engagement, Language, and Literacy Webinar Series: Partnering with Families of Dual Language Learners

Link : <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/learn-how-partner-families-support-dual-language-learners>

Cultural Perspectives in Caregiving: Applying Relationship-Based Practices

Link: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/cultural-perspectives-caregiving-applying-relationship-based-practices>

Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Simulation: Boosting School Readiness through Effective Family Engagement Series

Link: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-engagement/article/parent-family-community-engagement-simulation-boosting-school-readiness-through-effective-family>