

Tips

- Just keep swimming!
- Just because you can't see it does not mean it is not there.
- Facetime with families
- Meet families where they are at!
- Remember why you got into this
- Always remember your power
- Know what you want
- Be as colorful as a rainbow
- Always remember that you have choices
- Every turtle must carry their own shell
- Communicate! Call even when nothing bad happened.

Strategies

- Work on unpacking implicit biases, staff/admin preconceptions of families.
- Slow down, remember the successes.
- Empathy - Listen and identify from the heart.
- Be there.
- Validate.
- Help remind of the why.
- Listen *
- Be passionate
- Model
- Scheduling
- Language/translating
- Assumptions (made about each other)
- bandwidth/capacity (too much/too many meetings)
- Blank spots - getting participation - outreach not effective
- All partnerships need to build a string unit with the end goal in mind
- Building trust with families
- Always start with deep breaths and smile
- Be more interested than interesting
- State the obvious
- Be informed about social and community issues
- Before launching events, first build relationships, rapport and connections with families. Involve all parties to share skills, knowledge and experience, such as, youth-led/driven projects, positive and consistent communications to families, and aligning with school educators.
- Build a truly representative family/community stakeholder advisory committee with representatives from all communities you serve.
- Family events with potlucks
- Family events based on academics, reading events, family science nights

- Hiring diverse staff that better reflect families so they see allies in staff who look like them and/or translate for them.
- Consistent communication with parents (good and bad).
- Establish strong bonds
- Have food and family led events.
- Provide transparency and voice in after school program, ie a monthly newsletter with information and a parent voice section.
- Provide a family resource guide. Help families find information to support them.
- Be sure to have 5 positive interactions before having 1 corrective interaction.
- Develop a spectrum of opportunities from involvement to engagement to partnership with your team for how to bring families in to work with them.
Cutting art shapes for an activity (involvement); being on an advisory committee (engagement); co-planning a community event (partnership)
- Monthly newsletter and apps for to involve families
- A student zine
- While assuming positive intention, give authentic regular positive feedback to parents (especially those of challenging students) so that when critical feedback is required...there is trust!