A New Approach to Building Family Engagement Pathways: The 5Rs Framework

Margaret Caspe
Harvard Family Research Project
Think for a moment

When you hear FAMILY ENGAGEMENT, what words come to mind?
Supermarkets

Fig. 1. Examples of signs posted in either the milk or frozen vegetables section of the supermarkets.

Trains

Build your child’s brain on the train!
Look around! Describe what you see!
Ask questions while on the T!
Doing these activities together will help your child learn!

Count the stops
Tell a story
Afterschool Programs
Digital Media

Examples of Text Messages

Tue, Sep 24, 5:00 PM
Cheerio words! Grab a piece of construction paper & print small words with glue. Then have ur child stick cheerios on glue to practice spelling.

Thu, Sep 12, 6:06 PM
After you put the kids to bed take a few moments to be still & have some alone time. Close your eyes, breath deeply & listen to soothing music. You deserve it!
Libraries
Schools Alone Cannot Meet Students Needs
Children and youth – in fact, all of us – learn anywhere, anytime, not just in school.
Families:
Promote and advocate for children’s learning and development from early childhood to young adulthood
Family Engagement Is a Shared Responsibility

Schools and communities: Open doors for families to meaningfully participate in children’s learning anywhere, anytime
Family Engagement Promotes Learning
Family Engagement is Continuous Across Time
Family Engagement is a Matter of Equity
Worlds Apart
One City, Two Libraries, and
Ten Years of Watching Inequality Grow

BY SUSAN B. NEUMAN AND DONNA C. CELANO

Like a bright beacon on the hill, the Lillian Marrero public library rises majestically above the deserted buildings and bulldozed voids below on Germantown Avenue. Here in the heart of what is known as the Philadelphia Badlands, makeshift garbage dumps line the sidewalks. The tall grass that surrounds abandoned lots does nothing to obscure the stacks of tires, worn stuffed chairs, and piles of bottles, bags, and takeout containers indicative of the profound decline in the economy of this part of the city since its heyday in the mid-20th century. Although it’s a stunningly beautiful summer day, one that normally draws you outdoors, there’s not a seat at the tables. All is still, quiet, as if time has stopped.
**1. REACH OUT**
Reach out to families to promote the programs and services that are vital in a knowledge economy.

**2. RAISE UP**
Elevate family views and voices in how programs and services are developed and carried out.

**3. REINFORCE**
Provide guidance on and modeling of the specific actions that family members can take to support learning, reaffirming families’ important roles and strengthening feelings of efficacy.

**4. RELATE**
Offer opportunities for families to build peer-to-peer relationships, social networks, and parent-child relationships.

**5. REIMAGINE**
Expand community partnerships; combine resources and extend their range; improve children and families' well-being; and link new learning opportunities.
What learning setting do you work in?
Michelle Jeske
Denver Public Library
Poll Results

Please expand your chat box after the poll is closed!
Community Impacts

* Children enjoy reading and learning and flourish in school and life.

* People connect to resources and acquire the skills they need to thrive.

* We build community through fun, inspiring and creative experiences.
Libraries reach out to families to promote the programs, collections, and services that are vital in a knowledge economy.
Libraries elevate family views and voices in how library programs and services are developed and carried out.
Reinforce

Libraries provide guidance on and modeling of the specific actions that family members can take to support learning, reaffirming families’ important roles and strengthening feelings of efficacy.
Libraries offer opportunities for families to build peer-to-peer relationships, social networks, and parent-child relationships.
Libraries are expanding their community partnerships; combining resources and extending their range; improving children and families’ well-being; and linking new learning opportunities.
How would you describe the location where you work?
Engaging Families Across Rural Communities

Lesley Graham
Save the Children, US Programs
Poll Results

Please expand your chat box after the poll is closed!
Last year, our U.S. programs served almost 220,000 U.S. children — giving them a healthy start, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm — every day and in times of crisis.

Policy changes we've championed since 2010 have benefited 57 million U.S. children — transforming their lives and the future we share.

SavetheChildren.org
In rural America, where Save the Children specializes, economic barriers are intensified by absent resources, geographic isolation and an ever-growing disparity gap.
P-3 Continuum

Supports and services for children, prenatally through 3rd grade, to support kindergarten readiness and third grade reading proficiency.

Partnering with families, schools, and communities to support children’s learning and development across the continuum.
Early Childhood Programs

• **Home Visits**
  - Provide parents with age-appropriate activities
  - Help monitor developmental progress
  - Support knowledge on topics such as routines, interpreting babies’ communication, and toddlers’ development of problem-solving skills
  - Help parents develop skills that promote early literacy

• **Book Exchange Program**
  - Increase access to high quality books and literacy rich environments
  - Foster a love of learning and reading
  - Encourage reading frequency, comprehension and parent-child interaction
Early Childhood Programs

• **Parent Child Groups**
  - Facilitate parent education groups at schools to discuss early development
  - Foster a positive connection between families and schools
  - Support relationship-building prior to entering school

• **Transition to School**
  - Provide age-appropriate activities for learning at home
  - Implement KinderBoost Camp summer transition program
  - Facilitate Kindergarten Readiness Workshops and Literacy Events
School-Age Programs

Family Engagement Framework

- Support school capacity-building through self-assessment and planning process
- Provide training and technical assistance to support planning and implementation
- Collaborative approach for identification and integration of high quality, effective engagement practices

Key Engagement Strategies

1. Communicating Effectively
2. Supporting Learning at Home
3. Creating Family Connectedness
4. Collaborating with the Community
School-Age Programs

Sample Practices and Activities

- ✓ Weekly Take Home Communication Folders
- ✓ Grade-Level Socials
- ✓ Suggestion Boxes
- ✓ Volunteer Recruitment
- ✓ Family Resource Corners
- ✓ Data Sharing Conferences
- ✓ Literacy Workshops
- ✓ Summer Book Bags
- ✓ Parent Appreciation Week
- ✓ Parent Ambassadors
- ✓ Family Forums
- ✓ Take Home Text Bags
- ✓ Make & Take Workshops
- ✓ Parent Advisory Councils
- ✓ Winter Learning Bags
- ✓ Community Resource Directories
- ✓ Family Meet & Greets
- ✓ Family Surveys
- ✓ Policy Reviews

Shifting from student performances and potlucks to skill-building events to support learning at home
Community Mobilization

When creating a comprehensive system of services for young children and their families, the key ingredient for success is great collaboration.

- Establish cross-sector Community Collaboratives
- Provide support through a Community Literacy Manager
- Engage in Asset Mapping & Action Planning
- Facilitate Book Distributions
- Establish Reading Corners across the community
- Build Little Free Libraries
- Host Collaborative Literacy Events
Questions & Answers
RESOURCES

www.hfrp.org/libraries

http://www.alaa.org/pla/initiatives/familyengagement

Please take our 1-minute survey!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HFRPPLAFAE