

## HSU Course Outline

# Family Engagement Strategies: Building Strong Relationships

FEC5-Cv.15

2 Days LIVE Online

## Description

The Family Engagement Strategies: Building Strong Relationships course is designed to promote family support staff in using strengths-based attitudes and relationship-based practices. Many programs are struggling to find unique ways to support vulnerable families. Strength-based attitudes and relationship-based practices are especially important in working with families who are experiencing challenging situations. These situations may include housing, financial, health or mental health challenges, or concerns for the safety of a child or a family. The idea of parents as children's first and most important teachers is central to Head Start's philosophy of working with families. Children benefit from caring, responsive, and stable relationships. A strong relationship with a parent promotes a child's development, learning, and increased school success. Head Start professionals can encourage strong and positive parent-child relationships through family engagement strategies and best practices to: create strength-based relationships that respect diverse parenting styles and parenting choices, use cultural and linguistics strategies and best responses to a family's dreams, hopes, and traditions, engage parents through mutually respectful and flexible interactions, and connect parents with the learning process to help their children develop skills for school success.

## Prerequisites

- Knowledge of Performance Standards

## Who Should Take This Course?

This course is designed for those staff that work directly with families. The course has particular relevance for staff making home visits and for teaching staff concerned with building bridges between the families learning environment. Program Managers, who are responsible for staff-development activities will also benefit from this course. All Head Start staff, regardless of their roles or responsibilities, need to understand the information and demonstrate the skills presented in this course. Managers will find the course useful in planning and implementing family engagement programs. Staff with the major responsibility for engaging parents can use this course to analyze the effectiveness of current program practices. Policy council members can use this course to engage staff and parents in a dialogue to create a profile of the program's family engagement activities. Staff will gain a fresh perspective on what family engagement means. Staff who informally relate to families as they carry out their daily work can discover how each interaction with parents contribute to their engagement with the program.

## Objectives

- ✓ Discuss with parents how to create and sustain safe, supportive environments in the home
- ✓ Individualize family partnership agreements
- ✓ Provide engagement and education activities
- ✓ Provide opportunities for parents to enhance their parenting skill
- ✓ Assist parents as learners to recognize and address their own literacy goals
- ✓ Accept and acknowledge parents' emotions, both positive and negative.
- ✓ Reframe parents' emotions as passion for their family.
- ✓ Listen for what's behind the emotions and work with parents to understand them.
- ✓ Genuinely acknowledge and accept these feelings.
- ✓ Recognize and remember a family's passion from past conversations, and then build on it to provide focus when setting goals.
- ✓ Share observations of parent-child interactions that demonstrate something positive about the relationship.
- ✓ Share what you learned about the child from your observations of family-child interactions.
- ✓ Welcome families to visit and volunteer in the classroom.
- ✓ Recognize and acknowledge family strengths.
- ✓ Celebrate each step taken towards a goal as progress.
- ✓ Help families identify and access personal and community resources.

# Outline

## Day 1:

### Positive Goal-Oriented Relationships

- Why do Relationships Matter?
- Cultural Perspectives
  - Influence of Cultures and Languages
- Strength-based Attitudes
  - What is a Strength-based Approach
- Relationship-based Practices
- Self-Reflection

### Dual Language Learners

- Program Environments
- Supporting families who are Dual Language Learners
- Promoting Teaching and Learning Practices
- Sustaining Community Partnerships

#### Program Access and Continuity

### Engaging Online Goal-Setting with Families

- Gathering Information Online
- Conducting Online Assessments
- Communicating via Web-based Services
- Goal Setting using web-conferencing
- Virtual Follow-ups and Reviews

## Day 2:

### Parents as Teachers

- About Family Learning
- Learning in Young Children
- The Learning Environment
- Supportive Elements

### Identifying Family Learning

- Enriching Problem Solving
- Listening
- How Children Listen
- Parenting Styles
- Making Learning Fun

### Family Learning Goals

- Parent Conferences
- Planning
- Home Visiting
- Family Literacy
- Literacy Activities

### Helping Parents to be Successful

#### Success Process

#### Priority Pyramid

#### Short/Long-Term Goals Setting

### Head Start Success Ladders

- Self-Help
- Program Success Ladder
- Motivating Parents
- Helping Parents Prepare for Work

#### Resume Development

- Job Development
- Mentoring

#### Small Business Development

### Community Engagement

- Building Community Support
- Strategies for Support Groups
- Sociogram
- Program Checklists