

# Working with Families:

## *Building Relationships Built on Trust and Understanding*

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PRESENTED BY DAWN OWENS  
CONSULTANT, TANDEM EARLY EDUCATION CONSULTING, LLC.



# Who's Here?

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☐ Name

☐ Position/Title

☐ County

# What are our goals?

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- ☐ To understand the importance of building strong relationships with the families of the children they serve.
- ☐ To be respectful of different types of families.
- ☐ To understand the importance of meeting families where they are.
- ☐ To acknowledge that all children, staff and families add value to our programs.

# What is a family?

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# Types of Families

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- ❑ Nuclear Family- Families with a traditional structure that includes two parents and children.
- ❑ Single Parent Family-Families with one parent raising one or more children alone.
- ❑ Extended Family-Consists two or more adults who live together, this can include cousins, grandparents, aunts and uncles.
- ❑ Blended Families-These families are created when two separate families merge into one.

# Relationships between Families and Staff

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- ✓ are fueled by families' passion for their children
- ✓ are based on mutual respect and trust, affirm and celebrate families' cultures
- ✓ provide opportunities for two-way communication
- ✓ Include authentic interactions that are meaningful to those who participate in them
- ✓ Require an awareness of one's personal biases and how those biases can affect mutual respect and trust

# Strengths Based Attitudes for Building Positive Goal Oriented Relationships with Families

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- ▣ Families are the first and most important teachers of their children.
- ▣ Families are our partners with a critical role in their child's development.
- ▣ Families have expertise about their child and their family.
- ▣ Families' contributions are important and valuable.

# Encourage Positive Family-Staff Relationships

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- ☐ Provide opportunities for family participation.
- ☐ Accept parents without judging them.
- ☐ Trust that parents are the experts with their own children.
- ☐ Treat parents as individuals and call them by name.
- ☐ Offer positive feedback and encouragement to families.
- ☐ Keep parents informed.
- ☐ Respond to requests for information to the best of your ability.
- ☐ Encourage parents to talk to you about their children.



# Barriers to Positive Family-Teacher Partnerships

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- Differences in backgrounds- could be culture, language or socio economic
- Stress
- Differing Values
- Differences in viewing roles
- Types of experiences (Positive/Negative)
- Communication Abilities
- Need to feel valued

# Wrap Up

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- ☐ Questions
- ☐ Comments
- ☐ Follow Up
- ☐ Thank You!!