Anti-Bias Social Justice Education — Engaging Families in Pursuing Anti-Bias Practice in Early Childhood Settings

A Discussion on Research and Practice
Part of the Don’t Look Away: Embracing Anti-Bias Classrooms Book Study

Roundtable
Moderated by Kenneth Sherman
Chief Academic Officer of HighScope’s San Antonio Hub of Excellence
Introductions

Portia Kennel
The Buffet Early Childhood Fund

Sarah Stith
San Antonio ISD

Bonnie Lash-Freeman
Vice Chair, HighScope Board of Directors

Kenneth Sherman
HighScope San Antonio Hub of Excellence
Engaging Families: Building and Sustaining Collaborative Partnerships

- Portia Kennel, MSW Senior Advisor
- Buffett Early Childhood Fund
- January 27, 2021
A system of education is not one thing, nor does it have a single definite object, nor is it a mere matter of schools. Education is that whole system of human training within and without the schoolhouse walls which molds and develops “children.”

Adopted from W.E.B. Du Bois
The 4 Es
Exploration
Expectation
Education
Equipment
Family Engagement Defined

• “A reciprocal partnership between parents, staff and programs/schools that reflects a shared responsibility to foster children’s development and learning at home, school, or in the community.”
Family Engagement (Relationship)

• Development of a respectful and trusting relationship-based partnership characterized by:

  • Cultural, antibias, linguistic and socio-economic responsiveness
  • Strength-based orientation
  • Individualization and flexibility
  • Alignment with family preferences/goals/aspirations
  • Alignment to child goals and outcomes
  • Equality of family and staff/practitioner/educator roles
Shift in Mindset

• Mindset is defined as a “mental attitude or set of opinions or a particular way of thinking about something or someone.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education System and Educators SHIFT FROM...</th>
<th>TO...</th>
<th>Source: Educare Learning Network</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family engagement as an add-on</td>
<td>Family engagement as an essential, fundamental component of effective teaching and learning practices for young children and their families. Family Engagement is integrated into schools' and programs' systems and driven by learning and outcomes for child and family.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perception of families' deficits</td>
<td>Perception of families as resilient</td>
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<td>Family involvement</td>
<td>Family engagement - Building Relationships with Families that recognize parents’ importance to children’s learning</td>
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<td>Holding power</td>
<td>Sharing power with families - creating opportunities for Parents to exercise their power as Decision makers</td>
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<td>Role of staff as expert</td>
<td>Viewing parents as experts</td>
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<td>Focus only on learning outcomes for the child</td>
<td>Focus on creating activities that build parents’ capacity, promoting parental comfort, competence (knowledge) and confidence with their role as “educator” at home and advocate within the educational system</td>
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<td>Doing to and for parents</td>
<td>Partnering with and supporting parents so that they can do for their own families and children</td>
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Staff Family Partnership Outcomes

**Staff will be able to:**

- Develop respectful and reciprocal relationship with families
- Honor and recognize families’ existing knowledge and skills
- Create and sustain a program/school culture that is inviting, welcoming and promotes family engagement
- Develop family engagement activities that connect parents to children’s development and learning and connect families with needed resources

Source: Mapp, 2013
“I’ve learned that people will forget what you have said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

- Maya Angelou, American Poet
Additional Resources

- *ECTA Center Early Childhood Technical Assistance 2017, Principles of trusting partnership.
Resources

- 1 Connors-Tadors & Ramsburg, 2008; McWayne, 2016; Ginsburg-Block, 2010
- 2 Dearing et al., 2006; Downer & Myers, 2009; Epstein, 2001)
- 3 Halgunseth, Peterson, Stark, & Moodie, 2009
- 4 U.S. Department of Health and Human services, Administration for children and Families, Office of Head Start, National Center for Parent, Family and community Engagement, 2019
Annie Changes a Tire!
Thank you for joining us!

- **Certificate of Attendance**
  Will be emailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of the live event.

- **A recording** will be posted tomorrow on [youtube.com/HighScopePreschool](http://youtube.com/HighScopePreschool)
HighScope Roundtable

DON'T LOOK AWAY:
Driving Racial Justice in Early Childhood Classrooms

Register at HighScope.org/roundtable
Learn how you can support HighScope and early childhood education at highscope.org/invest