The Role of a Parent Educator: Small Wins are Big Wins!

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Opening and Introductions
Outcomes

- Develop and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of parent educators, and how that may differ from other family and community engagement work

- Develop an initial plan for implementing successful family and community engagement for programs

- Assess current practices in relation to the requirements, using a continuous, action learning approach

- Recognition of Small Wins leading to Big Wins
Essential Questions

- How can a compliance checklist serve as a baseline for us as we build relationships with children and families?

- What actions will I apply to my work right away?

- What have you tried?

- What did you learn?

- What will you do next?
Understanding the Roles and Responsibilities of Parent Educators
Roles and Responsibilities

Four core areas of focus for parent educators:

- Parent Engagement and Education
- Eligibility and Recruitment
- Attendance
- Comprehensive Services and Connection to Resources
Unpacking Expectations for Parent Educators
Expectations and Compliance

What you need to know:

- The compliance checklist is a **baseline**: learn the basics, then **go above-and-beyond**

- **Small wins lead to Big Wins along the pathway** to help you meet job expectations
Expectations and Compliance

Your part in the program achieving compliance is twofold:

1. Understand the policies and help your site comply with them

2. Know the policies specific to your role and maintain documentation and notes to help your site comply
Parent Educators in Practice in 4 Core Areas
Parent Educators in Practice: Parent Engagement and Education

- Plan and coordinate meaningful parent education opportunities

- Know how to use data collection to determine what parents want and need to know

- Do use novel approaches to make connections with families and community resources that take into considerations:
  - Family’s culture
  - Home language
  - Family composition
  - Changes in family circumstances
Support program efforts to identify and recruit most at-risk children in the community through effective outreach.

Know the priority populations and the weighted criteria for recruitment and enrollment.

Do best practice during intake process.
Parent Educators in Practice: Attendance

- Address common obstacles to attendance and begin to identify patterns in absenteeism

- Know how to promote the importance of regular attendance

- Do effective follow up strategies when and attendance issue arises
Parent Educators in Practice: Comprehensive Services & Connection to Resources

Understand how and why we engage both Mothers, Fathers and other family members

- Know perceived barriers that prevent family engagement
- Do what you can to overcome barriers such as Men Only Gatherings
- Target non-parental family members
- Do build community of families through engagement strategies
DISCOVER, PLAN, DO, LEARN
It’s not how great you start, it’s how great you finish!

Thank you and have fun!