



illinois
action for
children

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



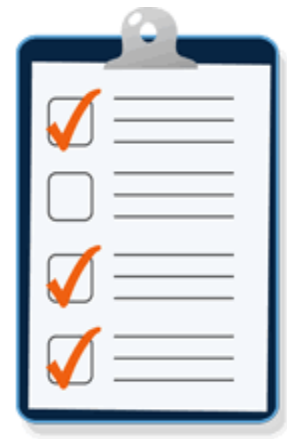


Unpacking Expectations for Parent Educators





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



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 an 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 your 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!