

Family Engagement



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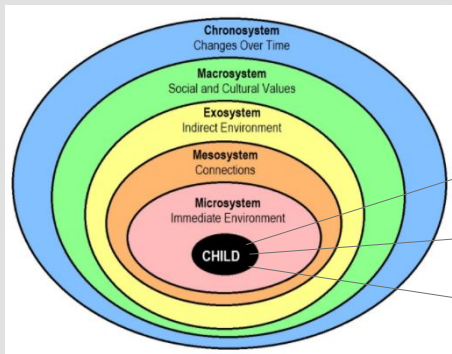


My Definition



Family engagement happens both at school and at home. Strong partnerships between families and schools form when a **strong school community** is prevalent, **open, reciprocal communication** is established, and developing **the whole child** is a focus. Parents and their ideas should be invited and welcome in schools, and the importance of education should be supported by families at home (Frans, 2018).

Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory



Steven Constantino's Five Simple Principles



- Principle #1: A Culture That Engages Every Family
- Principle #2: Communicate Effectively and Build Relationships
- Principle #3: Empower Every Family
- Principle #4: Engage Every Family in Decision Making
- Principle #5: Engage the Greater Community

Visible vs. Invisible
Family Engagement

Ways to Empower Families (Joyce Epstein)



- **Communicating.** Create two-way communication channels between school and home that are effective and reliable.
- **Learning at Home.** Include families with their children in academic learning at home, homework, goal setting, and curriculum-related activities.
- **Parenting.** Assist families with parenting skills, family support, understanding child and adolescent development, and setting home conditions, too.

Ways to Empower Families (Joyce Epstein)



- **Volunteering.** Improve recruitment and training to involve families as volunteers and as audiences at the school or in other locations.
- **Decision Making.** Include families as participants in school decisions, as well as in governance/advocacy activities.
- **Collaborating with the Community.** Coordinate resources/services for families/students/school with community groups, businesses, agencies, cultural/civic organizations/colleges/universities.

Resurfacing Themes



- Parents should be present in their children's education as their **primary educator**.
- Children need to **spend time** outside of school with their families and friends.
- Families and schools need to **collaborate** to develop the whole child.
- **Communication** between home and school should be reciprocal.
- Children should spend time **reading** at home.