

# Authentically Partnering with Families as Valued Members in Pyramid Model Implementation



for **Program Leadership Teams**

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# Introduction

This resource collection offers information and materials for programs to use as they authentically partner with families to implement the Pyramid Model. These resources ensure that each family’s “voice and choice” is considered in the [planning, development, and evaluation of Pyramid Model activities, programs, and systems](#).

## Informing


These resources help families understand how they are a valued partner in Pyramid Model Implementation.

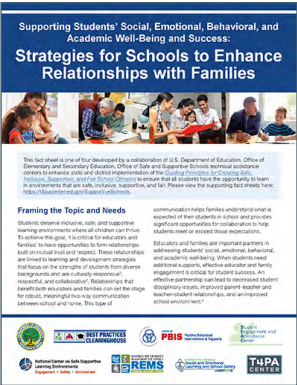
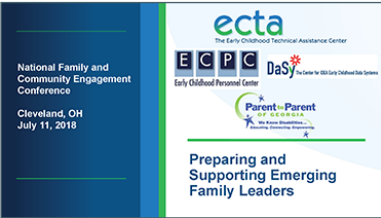
Resource	Description	Ideas for Using this Resource
<p><a href="#">Information Sheet for Families Announcing Pyramid Model</a><sup>1</sup></p> 	<p>This one-page handout briefly introduces the importance of social and emotional skills for young children. It also gives an overview of the Pyramid Model and how it benefits families, teachers, and children.</p>	<p>Programs and providers can share this handout with families to inform them of their Pyramid Model implementation efforts and offer time to answer any questions families have about the Pyramid Model and their efforts.</p> <p>Programs can partner with a family member to distribute to other families, including new families who may be joining the program.</p>
<p><a href="#">Family Perceptions of Pyramid Model Implementation</a></p> 	<p>This infographic presents findings from a family survey that considered families' perceptions of their experiences at their children's programs implementing the Pyramid Model.</p>	<p>Programs can share this resource at orientations, family nights, or family-teacher conferences to engage families in providing feedback about their experiences.</p> <p>Programs can replicate the survey process by asking families similar questions to gather feedback about their perceptions of Pyramid Model implementation.</p>


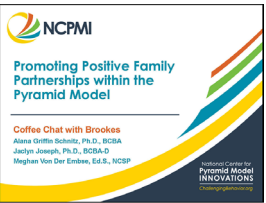
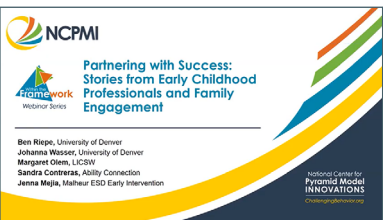
<sup>1</sup> This resource is available in other languages in the [NCPMI Resource Library](#).


## Partnering to Promote Voice and Choice


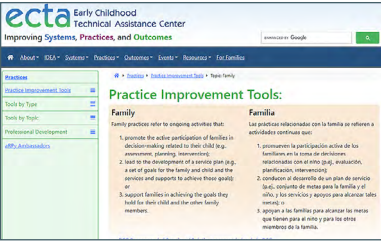
These resources help programs understand the importance of family partnerships and what practices they might use to ensure that family input guides their Pyramid Model implementation.

Resource	Description	Ideas for Using this Resource
<p><a href="#">The Critical Need to Have Families at the Table</a></p>  <p>The Critical Need to Have Family Members "at the Table"</p> <p>IDIO August 23, 2022</p>	<p>Families are key partners in state and local data conversations. They provide a unique perspective that is critical for program improvement. This session introduced the Family Data Leader pilot project. This project is a collaboration between the Center for Parent Information and Resources and the Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy). Participants increased their knowledge about what types of data there are, why data are collected, and how data drive improvement with a focus on equity. Participants also gained strategies to participate in data discussions successfully.</p>	<p>Program leadership teams can review this resource to ensure their efforts support family representation and voice in data collection and decision-making.</p> <p>Programs can use this resource to help create goals around data collection as well as family and community engagement which are responsive and inclusive to all families in the program.</p>

Resource	Description	Ideas for Using this Resource
<p><a href="#">Strategies for Schools to Enhance Relationships with Families</a></p> 	<p>This fact sheet offers information about the need and purpose of family-school partnerships to support inclusive, safe, and supportive learning environments where all students can thrive. Three strategies with examples are offered to deepen family-school partnerships.</p>	<p>Program leadership teams can review this resource to consider whether their program is currently using these strategies or whether they have outlined action plan steps that intentionally promote family-school partnerships.</p> <p>Programs can use a poll to gather information from families about what meaningful partnerships would look and feel like for them. They can use this family feedback in goal setting and action planning to ensure family representation.</p> <p>If programs are part of a broader PBIS system (e.g., public preschool classrooms located in an elementary school), they can use this document to discuss alignment and idea sharing across the early childhood and elementary school programs.</p>
<p><a href="#">Preparing and Supporting Emerging Family Leaders</a></p> 	<p>This presentation highlights strategies, practices, and approaches for effectively preparing and supporting new or emerging family leaders to engage in systems-level advocacy and decision-making related to early intervention (EI) and early childhood special education (ECSE) programs. Topics addressed in this presentation include: overview and history of family leadership, policies and supports, and high quality systems for IDEA early childhood services.</p>	<p>Programs can use this presentation to build their family engagement skills in a variety of ways, from gaining buy-in from providers to meaningfully partnering with families at all levels of their Pyramid Model implementation.</p> <p>Leadership teams can use this presentation to gather ideas for professional development and training materials to support family partnerships.</p>

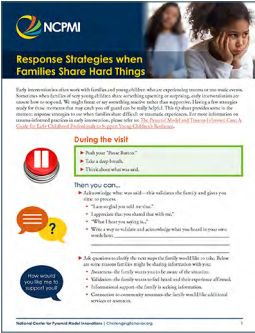
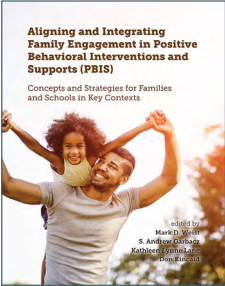
Resource	Description	Ideas for Using this Resource
<p><a href="#"><u>Teacher's Guide: Infant-Toddler Family Engagement Resources</u></a></p> 	<p>This guide introduces four resources that promote family engagement outside the classroom in infants' and toddlers' social-emotional learning. Included are a teacher's guide for using the resources and links to the four family engagement resources.</p>	<p>Programs can share this resource with teachers to help them create home-school connections that promote social and emotional learning.</p> <p>Program leadership teams can use this resource when planning family engagement opportunities. These might include tips, strategies, or resources in a newsletter, as well as creating a community-wide bulletin board to display family poll responses.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Promoting Positive Family Partnerships within the Pyramid Model</u></a></p> 	<p>This webinar discusses strategies for programs and providers to promote family partnerships in their programs.</p>	<p>Programs can use this webinar as a professional development opportunity for providers to consider family partnership goals and strategies broadly.</p> <p>Programs can use this webinar to supplement their team's book study with <i>Unpacking the Pyramid Model: A Practical Guide for Preschool Teachers</i>.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Partnering with Success: Stories from Early Childhood Professionals and Family Engagement</u></a></p> 	<p>This webinar includes perspectives from three panelists (an inclusion early childhood special education classroom teacher, a program implementation coach, and a mental health specialist) as they share successful tips and strategies for engaging and connecting with families in-person and virtually.</p>	<p>Leadership teams can review the tips and strategies shared in this webinar to reflect on their program's current use and effectiveness of family partnership efforts.</p> <p>Providers can use this webinar as a professional development tool. If viewed as a group, teams can discuss reflection questions (e.g., Have any of us used similar strategies and were they effective? Does anyone have other methods that have worked for engaging families?).</p>


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<p><a href="#"><u>Inclusion of Children with Disabilities Training Guide: Building Relationships with Families</u></a></p> 	<p>This module of the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities training provides activities to support early care and education staff and families for developing positive relationships that promote collaboration and family leadership. This module also contains a facilitator's guide.</p>	<p>Programs can consider polling staff to determine which topics should be prioritized based on their need and interest.</p> <p>Programs can use these modules to plan professional development opportunities for staff meetings or “lunch and learn” using the topics listed under “Building Relationships with Families.”</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework: Families as Partners in Promoting Family Engagement</u></a></p> 	<p>This resource explores each of the seven family outcomes named in the framework. It includes examples of how families and program staff can work together to make progress toward each outcome. It can also be used by parents who serve on the policy council or leadership teams as part of their role in making decisions for all children and families in the program.</p>	<p>Programs can use this resource to reflect on one or more family outcomes as the basis for a conversation with families, parent leaders, and program staff to elevate how much family voice and choice is represented in the outcomes. From these discussions, programs can target family outcomes to be celebrated and enhanced (e.g., developing partnerships with community organizations, taking actions to strengthen the health and well-being of all families, helping families make connections with their peers and community, and supporting families as their children's lifelong educators).</p> <p>Programs can use this resource to connect program staff and families with similar interests.</p>

Resource	Description	Ideas for Using this Resource
<p><a href="#">Engaging Families and Creating Trusting Partnerships to Improve Child and Family Outcomes</a></p> 	<p>The Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Center partnered with the Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy), Ann and Rud Turnbull, and invited guests to facilitate an interactive four-part web broadcast series. The series is aimed at supporting early intervention (EI) and early childhood special education (ECSE) systems leaders with building capacity in personnel and families to develop trusting partnerships.</p>	<p>Programs can review this resource to center family perspectives in their work. Webinar reflections and discussion questions included can be used during monthly reflective sessions or as part of preservice events to support teams in considering system adjustments that benefit child and family outcomes.</p> <p>The sessions and resources can provide content for professional development opportunities to promote family partnerships.</p>
<p><a href="#">DEC Recommended Practices Practice Improvement Tools</a><sup>1</sup></p> 	<p>The Practice Improvement Tools help practitioners implement evidence-based practices. They are based on the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) Recommended Practices. These tools and resources guide practitioners and families in supporting young children who have, or are at-risk for, developmental delays or disabilities across a variety of early childhood settings.</p>	<p>Providers can use the checklists to plan for interactions with families as a part of any assessment or intervention activity.</p> <p>Providers can use the checklists to self-evaluate and strengthen family engagement, family-informed decision-making, family-centered practices, and to build on family capacity.</p>

<sup>1</sup> This resource is available in other languages in the [NCPMI Resource Library](#).

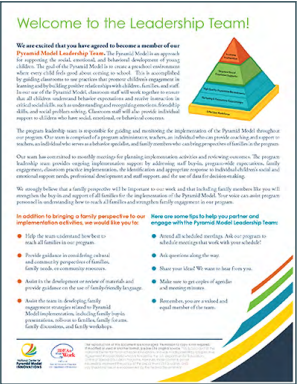



Resource	Description	Ideas for Using this Resource
<p><a href="#">Response Strategies when Families Share Hard Things</a></p> 	<p>This tip sheet provides some “in the moment” and “after the visit” response strategies and reflection early intervention providers can use when families share difficult or traumatic experiences.</p>	<p>While this resource was created for early intervention providers, any provider can use this to reflect when families share hard things.</p> <p>Programs can use this to inform professional development opportunities to help providers reflect and brainstorm ways they might respond when families share hard things.</p>
<p><a href="#">Aligning and Integrating Family Engagement in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)</a></p> 	<p>This e-book comprehensively reviews reasons for and ways to enhance family engagement in schools toward improved tiered systems involving promotion/prevention, early intervention, and intervention for children and students.</p>	<p>Leadership teams can use this e-book to identify explicit ideas for engaging families in program-decision making.</p> <p>Coaches and providers can use this e-book for explicit ideas for partnering with families in classroom implementation.</p> <p>Behavior support providers can use this e-book to explore ideas and resources for partnering with families while developing behavior support plans.</p>

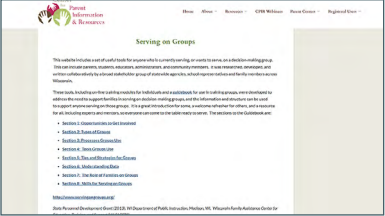
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<p><a href="#">The Envelope for Curious Conversations to Evolve Family Practice</a></p> 	<p>This website contains a collection of resources designed to support early childhood professionals to engage in “curious conversations” that strengthen family partnerships. The collection of <i>Thought Provocations</i> includes recorded sessions from early childhood professionals and family members discussing a variety of family partnership topics. The resources titled <i>Doing Thinking Feeling</i> advocate for taking the time to understand families from a place of wondering and curiosity. The resources within <i>The Words We Use</i> examine the impact of the words we use when talking with families and how professionals can learn new and different words.</p>	<p>The sessions and resources can be used in professional development opportunities to support program and provider family partnerships, such as viewing a <i>Thought Provocation</i> session and engaging in dialogue and planning.</p> <p>Leadership teams can review the <i>Words We Use</i> recordings to reflect on their program’s current use and effectiveness of the language and words used to describe and engage with families.</p>


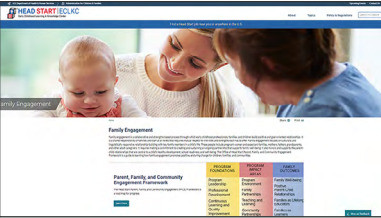
# Leadership Team Engagement

These resources support programs to meaningfully engage families as active members of their program's Pyramid Model Leadership Team.

Resource	Description	Ideas for Using this Resource
<p><a href="#">Leadership Team Welcome Letter for Families</a></p> 	<p>This family-friendly handout explains the leadership team and provides family members ideas on how to partner with the leadership team.</p>	<p>Programs can use this resource to recruit families to become members of their leadership team.</p> <p>Leadership teams can provide this resource to families joining their leadership team and offer time to meet and talk about ways the family can meaningfully contribute to the team, as well as about any questions they might have.</p> <p>Family leaders can use this resource to reach out to families or invite them to be a part of the leadership team. It might be best shared by a family leader or program staff who speaks the family's preferred language.</p> <p>If the language spoken by a family member being invited to join the leadership team is not included in the resources provided on the NCPMI website, programs should translate this document into their preferred language.</p>

Resource	Description	Ideas for Using this Resource
<p><u><a href="#">Family Engagement and the Leadership Team</a></u></p>  <p><b>Family Engagement and the Leadership Team</b> <i>Highly readable and user-friendly</i></p> <p>In program-wide implementation of the <b>Pyramid Model</b>, programs are guided to include a family member as a full participant on the leadership team.</p> <p>Family members on the leadership team offer the unique perspectives of the family and community to discuss about implementation steps and help guide decisions about family engagement and family support strategies. This document provides the leadership team with information on how family membership will strengthen the leadership team, guidelines for recruiting a family member, and considerations for supporting the family member as a participating team member.</p> <p><b>Including Family Members on the Leadership Team</b></p> <p>Involving family members on the pyramid of the leadership team allows programs to build strong partnerships with families and community members. Prior to the recruitment of a family member, the leadership team should consider how to invite families to partner with the leadership team on strategies for their families, and a support program.</p> <p><small>National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations   <a href="#">ChallengingBehavior.org</a>   Publication August 10, 2014</small></p>	<p>This article highlights ways the Pyramid Model Leadership Team can partner with families.</p>	<p>Leadership teams can use this resource to guide decisions related to family engagement and family support strategies during implementation planning.</p> <p>Prior to recruiting family members to be a member of the leadership team, leadership team members can review this handout to explore the many ways family members can be full participants of the team and to learn key strategies for inviting a family member to join the leadership team.</p> <p>Leadership teams can offer this resource to families who have agreed to participate on the leadership team to let them know how they will be supported as part of the team.</p>

Resource	Description	Ideas for Using this Resource
<p><a href="#">Serving on Groups</a></p> 	<p>These tools, which include on-line training modules for individuals and a guidebook for use in training groups, were developed to address the need to support families in serving on decision-making groups. The information and structure can additionally be used to support anyone serving on those groups.</p>	<p>Established leadership teams can collaborate with families on the team, utilizing these resources to gain insights into their experiences and identify new approaches for better supporting them as group members.</p> <p>In new groups, leadership team members can utilize these resources to proactively develop a plan for effectively supporting the family team members. Teams may consider incorporating regular opportunities to gather input from families around their experiences.</p> <p>During the onboarding process for families joining leadership teams, these training modules can be provided to families to help familiarize them with participating in decision-making groups. Teams can allocate time for supportive conversations, allowing families to ask questions about the modules. Additionally, all team members should review these materials.</p>

Resource	Description	Ideas for Using this Resource
<p><a href="#">Supporting Families of Young Children in Leadership Roles: Video Series</a></p> 	<p>This video series was developed for Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) funded parent centers and other relevant parties to support the involvement of families of young children in early childhood programs and decision-making teams.</p>	<p>Programs can examine the video series topics pertinent to family involvement to consider how their policies and programmatic decision-making includes family representation.</p> <p>Programs can use these resources to collaborate with families to identify barriers to family leadership involvement and generate meaningful solutions to overcome those barriers.</p> <p>After viewing the videos, programs can reflect on their unique barriers that make family leadership team involvement challenging. Programs may also consider polling families about perceived challenges and needs.</p>
<p><a href="#">Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge</a></p> 	<p>The Family Engagement page of the Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center website offers a multitude of resources to promote family engagement in early childhood.</p>	<p>Programs can support providers to participate in a family engagement virtual scavenger hunt to become familiar with the information provided on the website.</p> <p>Programs and providers can use the resources titled <i>Engaging Families of Children with Disabilities</i> to understand how to meaningfully partner with the families of all young children in their classroom.</p> <p>Programs can use the resources specific to using family engagement data to identify ways to strengthen their partnerships with families.</p>