

4. Foundations of Engagement

Activity

This session plan is for the service. It can be used:

- as part of staff training
- with parents

Please take time to read the session plan, organise resources and if necessary, make any changes to the session delivery style tailoring it to the audience you are using it with.

Introduction

The main benefit of Parental Engagement is improved outcomes for children and young people. Parents therefore have a strong interest in Parental Engagement being delivered effectively, because without it, opportunities to improve outcomes for children and young people are not being maximised.

Session aim

- To develop an understanding of the foundations which support effective Parental Engagement

Resources

- 'Foundations of Engagement' Activity sheet (1 per pair / small group – cut into separate cards and shuffle in advance)
- 'Foundations of Engagement? Fact file (1 per person)

Delivering the session

Explain to the group that there are four requirements for a service that need to be in place to make engagement work and that these are:

Culture – which is about the values and attitudes the service has towards engagement.

Skills – which is about the level of experience or training that staff have to engage effectively.

Mechanisms – which is about the service making sure that engagement is possible.

Support – which is about having the time and resources to help parents to engage.

You may wish to write these four words and brief definitions on a flip chart for people to see.

Provide each pair or small group with a set of 'Foundations of Engagement' cards. Ask them to sort the pack into four piles – one that represents areas related to *culture*, one that represents *skills*, another that represents *mechanisms* and the fourth that represents areas related to *support*.

Ask the group to share their thoughts. Use this opportunity to discuss any terms or concepts that people do not understand. Provide the correct answers (on the bottom of the Activity sheet)

Information round up

To help increase understanding, provide everyone with a copy of the 'The Foundations of Engagement' Fact file. You can read this to the group if necessary. If internet connection is available, view the video clips that accompany the Fact file at

www.parentandcarerengagement.org.uk

Session end

As a group, take some time to think of other requirements you think are essential to making engagement work. As each is mentioned, decide if it falls under 'culture', 'skills', 'mechanisms' or 'support'.

Photocopy this sheet and cut up into 24 individual cards. Shuffle the cards and provide each pair/small group with a pack to sort into four piles (as per instructions in the session plan).

The answers are on the bottom of this sheet for people to check their responses. Hand these out at the end of the activity.

Named contact	Advocates	Culture
Ethos	Experience	
Knowledge	Values	Skills
Crèche	Planning	
Procedures	Policies	Mechanisms
Beliefs	Ability	
Help with travel costs	Monitoring	Support
Attitudes	Training for parents	
Budget	Evaluations	
Staff training	Free phone helpline	

Answers:
(Culture): Values, Attitudes, Beliefs, Ethos. **(Skills):** Staff training, Experience, Ability, Knowledge **(Mechanisms):** Policies, Procedures, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluations, Budget **(Support):** Help with travel costs, Training for parents, Crèche, Advocates, Named contact, Free phone helpline