

PIES

The background features a blue gradient with a series of stylized, light-blue human figures holding hands. A banner is stretched across the figures, containing the acronym 'PIES' in large, bold, blue letters. The banner is divided into four segments, each labeled with a letter: 'P' for Planning, 'I' for Implementation, 'E' for Evaluation, and 'S' for Support. The figures are arranged in a line, creating a sense of unity and teamwork.

Planning Implementation Evaluation Support

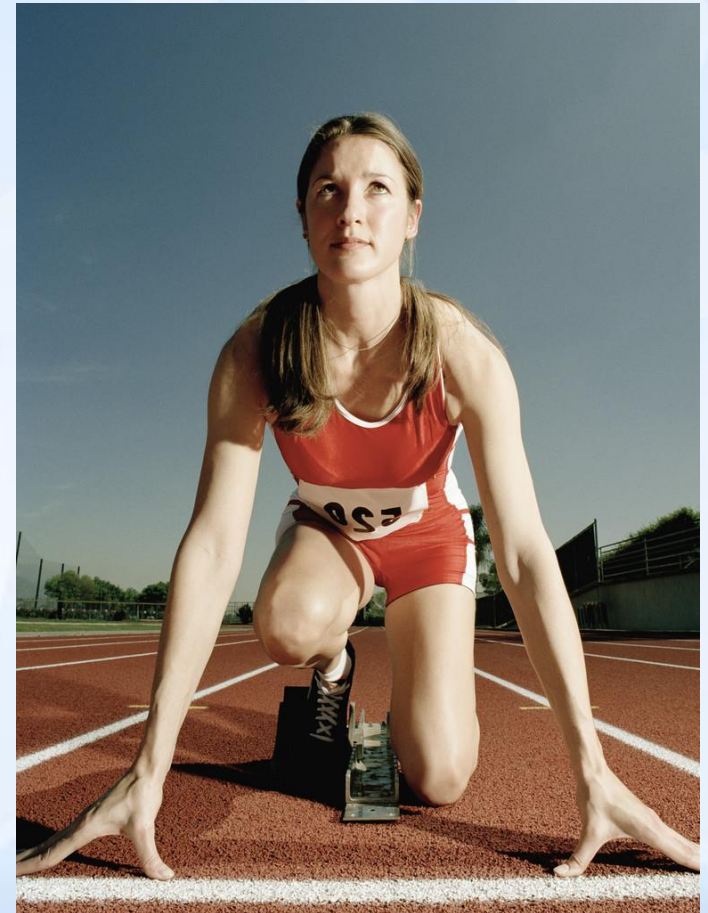
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The Role of Meaningful Family
Involvement in Planning, Implementation
and Evaluation

PLANNING:



Invite families from the very beginning of a project/stakeholder group.



IMPLEMENTATION



Where can we go to recruit families?

Can be internal *or* external to an organization/agency

- A parent/professional on staff
- ICC Parent Representatives/State Advisory Council Representative
- Parent Co-Trainer of the Parent Training Center
- Parent Training and Information Center

Provide guidance on the progression of a defined scope of work

Engaging Families



An ongoing cyclical process



Questions to Ask...



- ☑ Is this the right time for the parent within their personal situation to join this stakeholder group?
 - ☑ Do they have what they need to make an informed decision about participating on this stakeholder group?
 - ☑ Time commitment, support to attend the meetings, etc.
 - ☑ Is there a reimbursement structure? Is this clearly explained to the parent? What is the process?
 - ☑ Is there more than one parent involved?
 - ☑ Don't want to be a token parent representative
 - ☑ Is there a mentor assigned to each parent?



Families need to be informed?

- What is their role?
 - Do they represent families or their own family experience only?
 - How can they connect with other families to truly be representative?
- How to meaningfully participate
- Changes in expectations as the project evolves

Things to consider



- ❓ Do we truly want to engage and allow families to participate?
 - ❓ Watch the body language and non verbal cues of the group
 - ❓ Watch the use of acronyms at the beginning
- ❓ Are written materials clear, appealing, informative and easy to read?
- ❓ Are there resources available to support families?
 - ❓ Is there funding support for family involvement?
 - ❓ If so, what is the mechanism and the process.
- ❓ How long is the commitment?
 - ❓ Short term, long term or ongoing?

Suggested Strategies



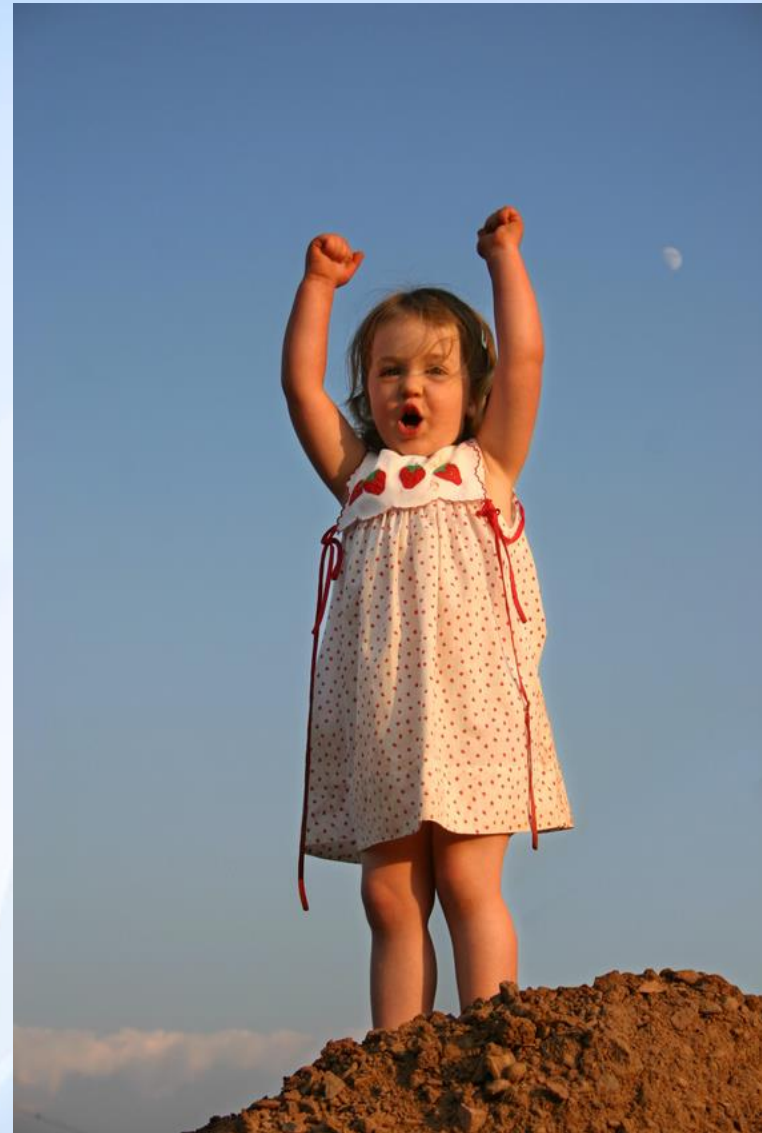
- ☑ Develop procedures to prepare families for active participation
- ☑ Develop guidelines or checklists for families to complete before each critical event
- ☑ Prepare a list of commonly used terms, acronyms and abbreviations
- ☑ Call on experienced parents to assist other families through the process

EVALUATE



- Are there other opportunities for families to get involved?
- Are there ongoing training opportunities for families to grow their skills?
- Did we assign a mentor/support person for families to go to for any questions/clarification
- Are you offered the opportunity to meaningfully be involved?
- Is there anything that we can do better to support you?
- Is this still the right opportunity for you?
- Do you feel effective in your involvement?

SUCCESS!



Take Home Messages!



- Invite more than one parent to participate
- Ask parents if this is the right time for them to participate (*don't assume*)
 - Provide expectations and time commitment
- Provide background information to prepare parents to meaningfully participate
- Funding mechanism to engage more than one parent
- Support/mentoring available for families