

Giving Power to the Family's Voice: Implications for Policy and Practice



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Handouts and PowerPoints are available at <http://fpg.unc.edu/presentations/giving-power>

Session Objectives:

- 1) Participants will identify how family voices can be used to positively impact policy and practice for young children with disabilities and their families.
- 2) Participants will understand the challenges and benefits of collecting family voices including identifying diverse families willing to share their stories, establishing rapport with families so they are willing to share their stories, identifying strategies for sharing family stories with key stakeholders, etc.
- 3) Participants learn about several authentic approaches for capturing and using family stories to promote quality
- 4) Participants will learn about high-quality, readily available resources to support the use of family voices in their work

Why is it important to give families a voice?

- Policy Statement on Family Engagement: From the Early Years to the Early Grades
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/earlylearning/files/policy-statement-on-family-engagement.pdf>
- Tuning In: Parents of Young Children Tell Us What They Think, Know and Need
<https://www.zerotothree.org/early-learning/national-parent-survey>
- Parenting Knowledge Among First-Time Parents of Young Children
https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/ParentingKnowledge_ChildTrends_July2018.pdf
- Information Memorandum on the Importance of Meaningful Father Engagement
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/acffatherhoodim_final.pdf

Capturing family voices: The Vermont story

- Vermont family stories (posted)
- Supporting Each and Every Young Child and Family's Full and Equitable Participation: Vermont Guiding Principles (posted)

Exploring photo elicitation to engage Head Start families of children with disabilities

- Research brief (posted)

Table top conversations

- What have you found to be effective strategies to capture and use family stories to impact policy and practice? Share both points of pride and challenges.

Resources to support your work

- Family Engagement Resources (posted)
- Personas (posted)
- Listening to Family Stories: Conversations for Engaging Each and Every Family
- RP family resources <http://ectacenter.org/decrp/topic-family.asp>

- RP Module 5: Family <https://rpm.fpg.unc.edu/module-5-family>
- Fatherhood resources
<http://hsicc.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/j/13D6752CA6C7503F2540EF23F30FEDED/484AD7725D201DD544D0DD5392A9C75A>
 - Information Memorandum on the Importance of Meaningful Father Engagement
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/acffatherhoodim_final.pdf
- New videos
 - Supporting Family Leaders <http://ectacenter.org/topics/familyeng/supportingfamilyleaders.asp>
 - Here's to Grandparents! <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/2464-the-grand-plan-grandparent-films>