

3.6 Building Relationships: Greeting Parents

Questions to consider:

What crosses your mind when you come to work or go to a friend's home and you are not greeted? _____

How does this set the tone for your interactions or visit? _____

Why is greeting parents by name important?

When you greet a parent by his/her name, you are acknowledging the parent. This shows a parent that you value him/her as an individual and you establish a relationship of courtesy and kindness.

GREETING PARENTS BY NAME IS A TACTIC THAT WELCOMES PARENTS INTO THE ENVIRONMENT AND HONORS THEM AS UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS.

Steps:

1. Learn the first and last name of parents or caregivers.
2. At the start and end of the program, greet each parent by name.
3. Smile and make eye contact during greeting.

For new parents introduce yourself and ask them who they are: *Hi, I am ___ your child's _____, and you are?*

Parent answers.

(Repeat their name) It is very nice to meet you.

For parents you are familiar with but have not greeted by name, ask again who they are and offer your intention to learn their name: *Hi, I know we have met before, I am ___. Can you tell me your name again?*

Parent answers.

Thanks, (repeat their name.) I am not always good at remembering names, but I am going to do my best.

For daily greetings:

Hi, ___ it's good to see you.

Hi, ___ how are things?

Hi, ___ how was your day?

The Outcome:

1. Parents feel welcome.
2. Parents perceive you as friendly and approachable.
3. You open up the opportunity for parents to share information or ask questions.
4. You recognize the parent as an individual.

Putting it to practice:

This week learn and greet each parent by name. What barriers did you face in greeting parents? How can you get past those barriers to begin connecting with those parents?
