

RCFP PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Parent partnership is a critical element of all efforts to promote children's social and emotional development. Therefore, RCFP practices are aligned with these core principles:

- 1. All parents are respected and honored for their values, wisdom, and experience.** Parents are valued as their child's first teacher. Their opinions, beliefs, aspirations, and experiences with their child are sought, appreciated, and utilized. Familial and cultural values related to parenting and child-rearing are understood and respected. Disclosures are aligned with the values and intentions of the parent.
- 2. Parental resilience is supported and recognized as critical to the emotional availability and wellness of parents.** Parental resilience is the capacity of a parent to remain hopeful, be flexible, manage change, and overcome challenges. Resilient parents are able to effectively access resources, manage stress, focus on their family's future, and remain emotionally available to their children.
- 3. All parents are recognized as having the desire and potential to meet the needs of families.** Parents want what is best for their children and use relevant information to guide or alter their decisions and practices. Their experiences and wisdom are valuable resources that inform their parenting and benefit the growth of other parents and professionals.
- 4. Parenting solutions and resources are relevant, practical, and accessible.** It is expected that at some point in time all parents will need support. This support is offered in partnership with parents (parents in the lead) and is based upon their needs and intentions. Needs are kept confidential, and support is offered in a non-judgmental fashion.
- 5. The Parent-Child relationship is nurtured and valued.** The relationship between a parent and child enhances the success of the child and contributes to their wellness and resiliency.
- 6. Parent-Parent relationships are essential to the wellness and resilience of families.** Creating social networks of support for parents promotes their well-being, strengthens their resilience, and builds their emotional strength and capacity. The emotional availability and resilience of the parent promotes secure attachment with children.
- 7. Parents' actions are accepted as indicators of their feelings and intentions.** We believe behaviors are feelings to be understood. Behaviors are used as a means to open communication about feelings, apprehensions, and desires. Environments encourage the expression of feelings through the use of empathy and acceptance.