

Leadership With Purpose

Leaving a Legacy

Parents and Educators as Partners



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Activating Causal Leadership™

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Life as a Single Mom



Causal Leadership



An Invitation to the White House!



Causal Leadership is...
leadership with purpose.

*Causal Leadership is
dedication to change. It is a
choice to experience each day
through the lens of contribution.*

Yes to Trusting



150 Seizures a Day



Searching for answers...



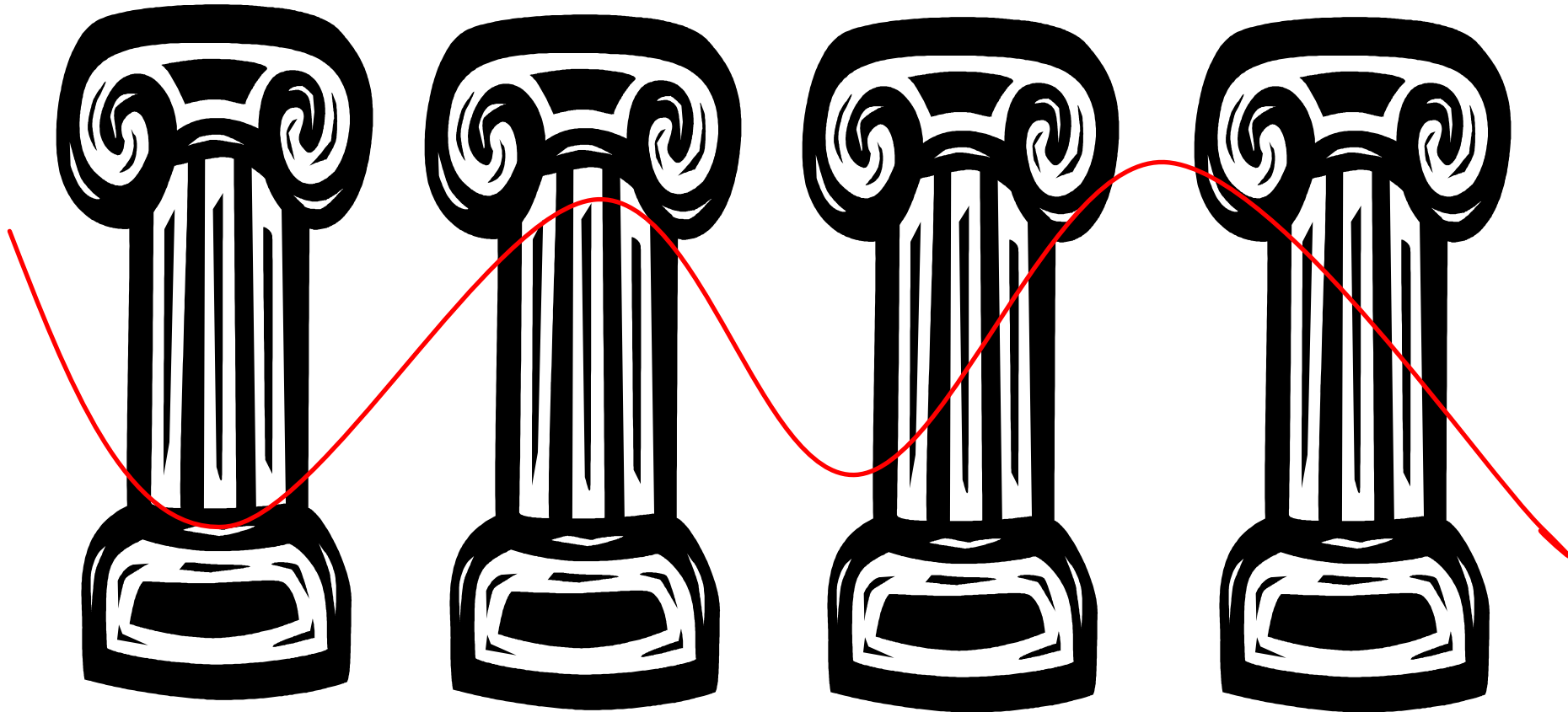
Families are a horizontal thread in a vertical system.

Health

Housing

Education

Safety



The Short Bus



The Bus Buddy Program



Holly's Bus Buddy Program



Fox Creek Elementary

Learning... every child, every day
6585 Collegiate Dr.
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126
303-471-3735

Diane R. Smith
Principal

Bob Winter
Assistant Principal

May 14, 2001

Dear Parents and Students:

We're thrilled to celebrate with you an exciting announcement about one of your fellow classmates. Holly Fiscus will be joining you all as a regular rider on your bus. This is exciting because Holly is a 5th grader with special needs who is now ready to ride the bus with her peers.

Holly is developmentally delayed and has been dealing with the challenge of seizures on a daily basis. However, for over six months, Holly has not experienced any seizures! This break-through is awesome, as Holly can now begin to enjoy many of the childhood experiences most of us take for granted...like getting to ride the "Big" bus with her classmates and friends.

For those of you who have met Holly, you know she is a very social person. Although she cannot speak, Holly loves to interact with her peers whenever possible. She typically communicates her needs with gestures, pointing or hand-on-hand guidance. Her joyous laughter and smiles are contagious!

As we continue to plan for this advancement, we're inviting Holly's classmates to sign up for **Holly's Bus Buddies Program**. As Holly's **Bus Buddy**, you will be asked to sit with Holly during the bus ride, (she will be buckled in), and help get her backpack off the bus. (Holly loves riding the bus, and has no behavioral challenges during transport.) Holly's aid will meet the bus at school, and a member of Holly's family will be at her bus stop at the end of the day to complete Holly's journey. If you are interested in signing up for a one-week commitment, please complete the information below and return it to Mrs. Smith.

We are excited to share Holly's accomplishments with her peers, neighbors and the entire community! Feel free to call her parents at home at 303-345-5909 to discuss any questions you may have. This is an exciting time! Thank you for your support and kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott and Eileen Forlenza - Holly's Mom and Dad
Diane Smith - Principal, Fox Creek



HOLLY

Yes, I am interested in being a **Bus Buddy** for Holly.

I'm considering signing up as a **Bus Buddy**, but I need more information. Please contact me at _____ Student's name _____

Parent's name(s) Dawn Wood Phone# 303-791-0274

Student's Teacher/Grade/Track Jessy Wood / Howell / c

Embrace the Possibilities

Sometimes the system places us in a fear-based state of mind.

Vs.

The children were able to view the world through the lens of possibility.

Peer support is foundational for success.

- Successful transition is strongly tied to meaningful peer relationships.
- Transition is a ***process***, not an event.

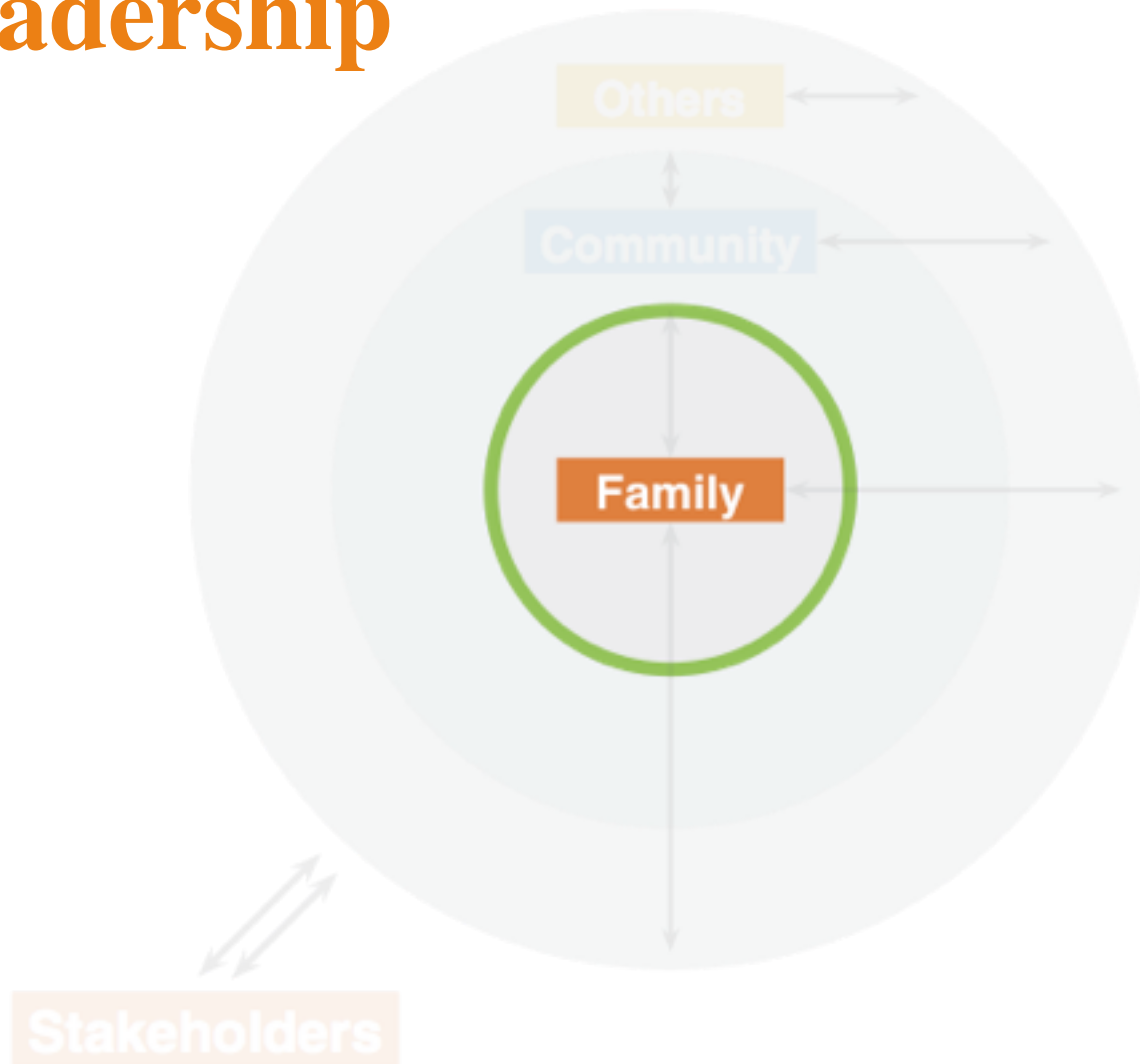
**An intentional shift from a
dependency model to a partnership
model.**



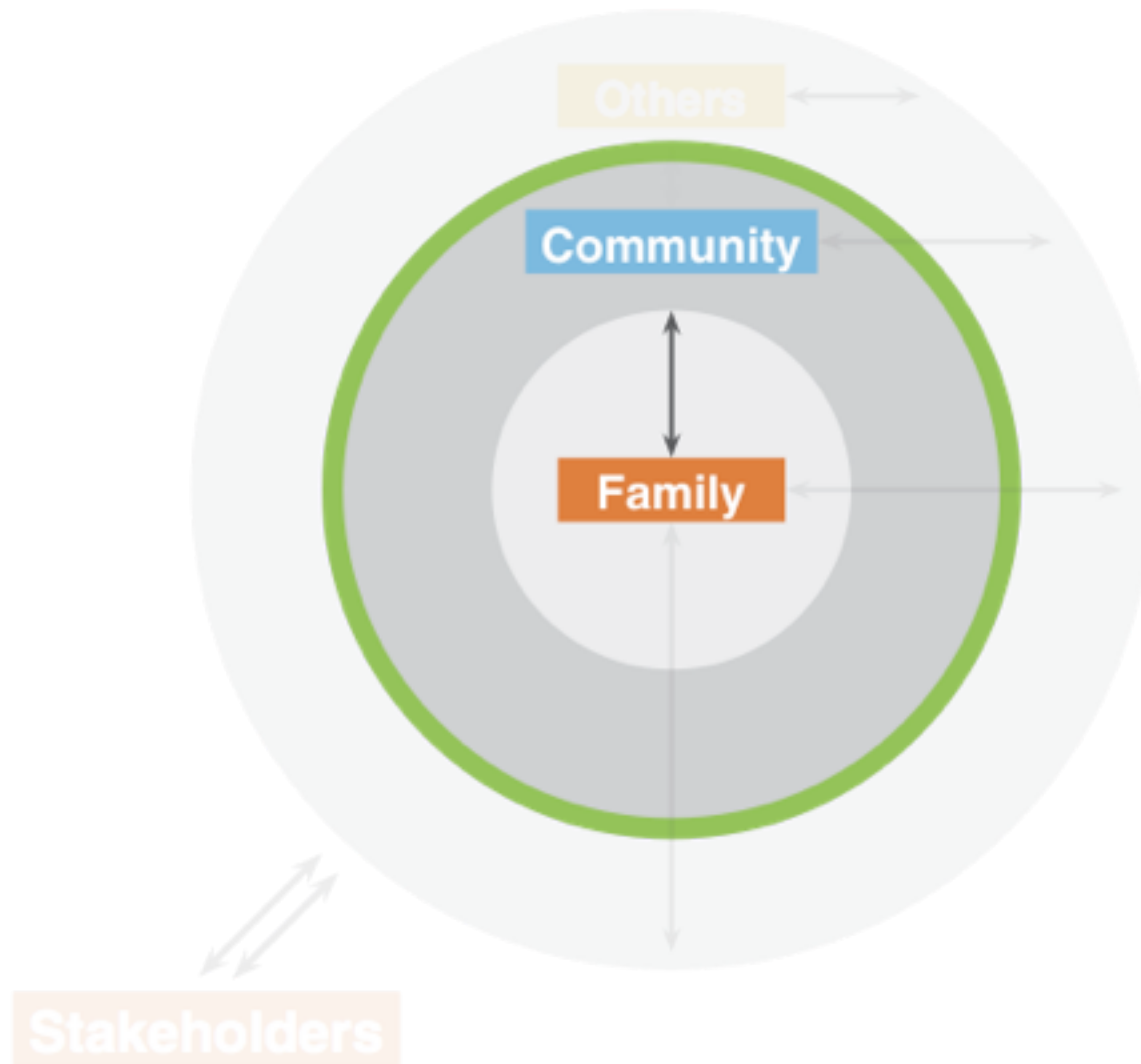
Progression of Family Leadership



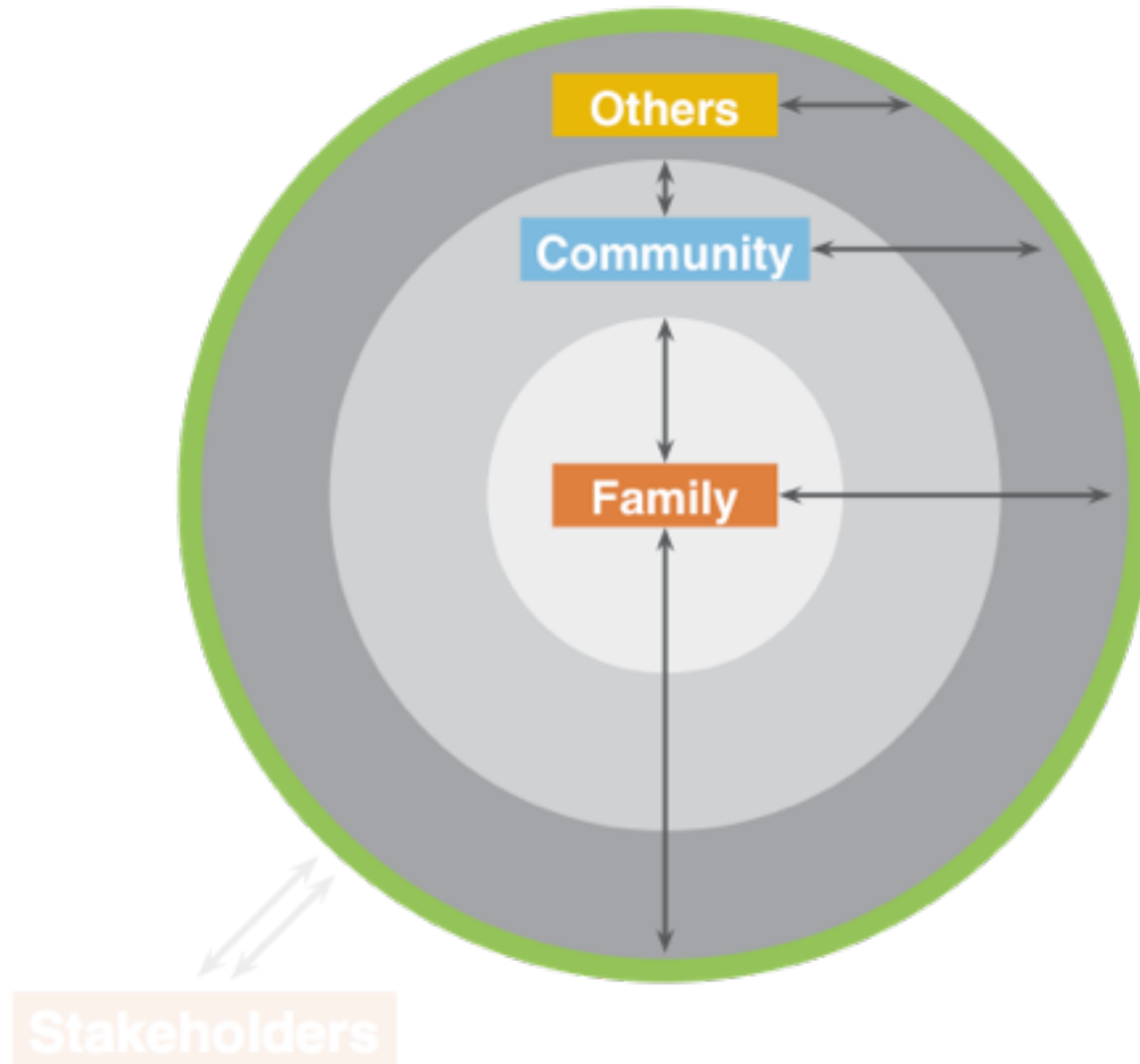
Progression of Family Leadership



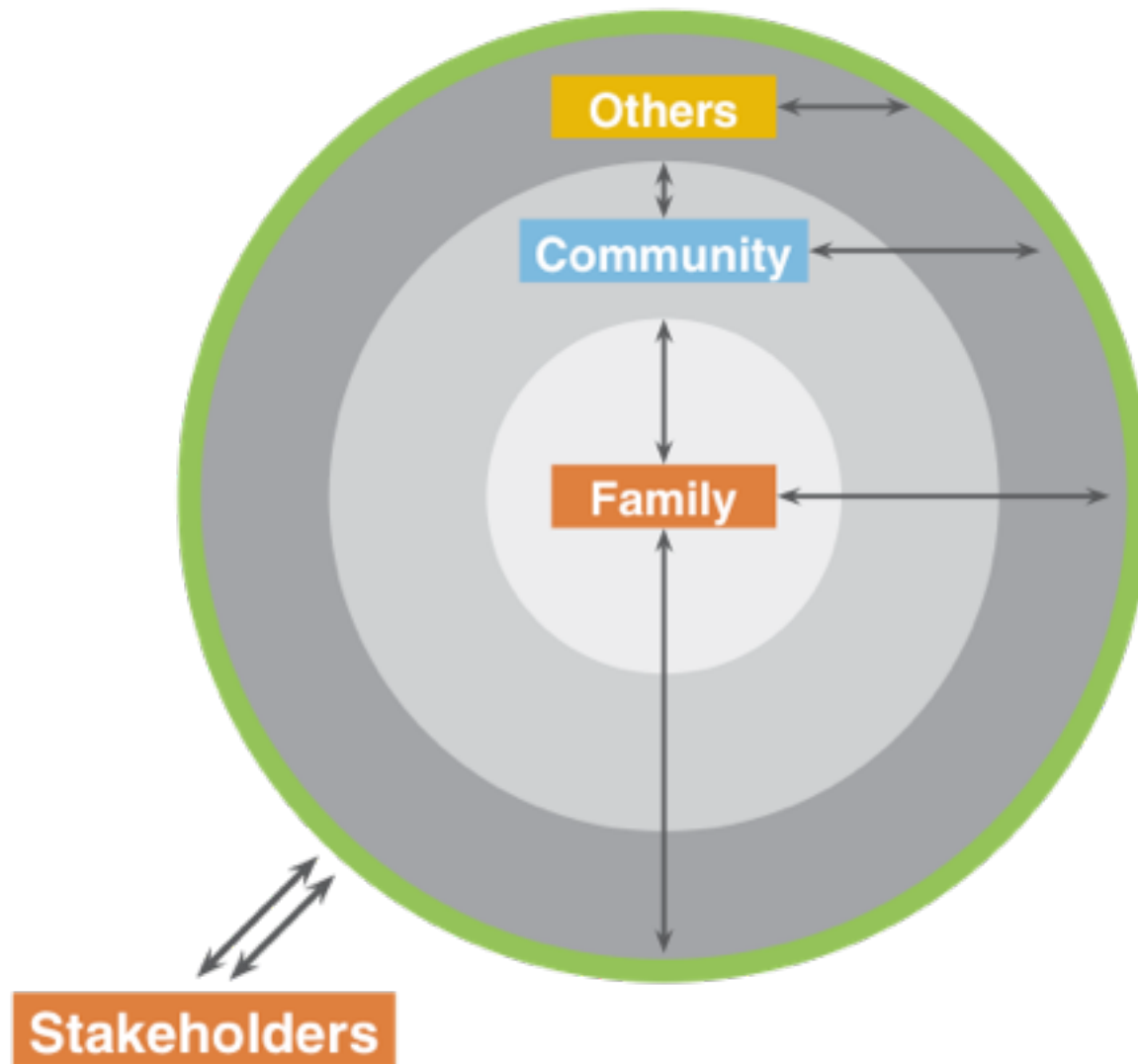
Progression of Family Leadership



Progression of Family Leadership



Progression of Family Leadership



The Right Partner at the Right Time

Your role is to clearly define what your needs and expectations are.

Your ability to understand, respect and embrace a family's education experience and braid that into innovation for quality improvement is a critical step in successful partnerships.

Readiness Indicators

- *Inner Ring* – Classroom or direct service focused
- *Mid-Ring* – Community focus such as schools, neighborhood
- *Outer Ring* – Policy focus, focus on broad context and impact.

Readiness Factors – Educators

- Explore past history
- Are you ready for full transparency
- Leadership support in all directions
- Willingness to be flexible
- **Your budget is your policy statement!**

Readiness Factors - Family

- Clarify your role, expectations and accountability.
- Be honest about your skills, knowledge and abilities.
- Can you represent the constituency of families?
- Model partnership at all levels.
- Present yourself as a project consultant .
- **Braid experience with knowledge and skills!**

INNER RING	COMMUNITY RING	OUTER RING
Attend classes on parenting skills or child development.	<i>Plan and implement a community training in your neighborhood.</i>	<i>Attend professional development trainings to support your skill development – Toastmasters, Boards Member training, etc.</i>
Attend a training to feel confident about your child’s IEP.	<i>Work with your school and Pathfinders and host an IEP training for a group of families.</i>	<i>Work with a school district to review aggregate data of family satisfaction surveys.</i>
Write an essay about your child’s progress, share it with the education team.	<i>Write an article about a family story and ask your school district to include it in their newsletter.</i>	<i>Recommend policy changes to your school district/DOE as a result of surveys and family stories.</i>
Learn how to effectively coordinate your child’s therapy and health appointments.	<i>Develop a list of local support groups and share it in the community (library, grocery store, waiting rooms, etc)</i>	<i>Participate in grant writing to assure the perspective of families is integrated in district- wide initiatives.</i>
Your child’s strategies for success should drive positive partnerships with your team.	<i>Members of the community can be valuable members of an improvement team at the school/district.</i>	<i>Establish a small business and offer professional, solution-oriented consultation services to district/DOE – including legislative testimony, communications, etc.</i>

Frame Partnership as Leadership Development

Shift from *servicing* families to *partnering*
with families.



The Parent Institute report

“If we can point to anything in education that is “research based” it is that parent involvement boosts student achievement!”

Parent Involvement: Nine Truths You Must Know, 2010

John H. Wherry, Ed.D.

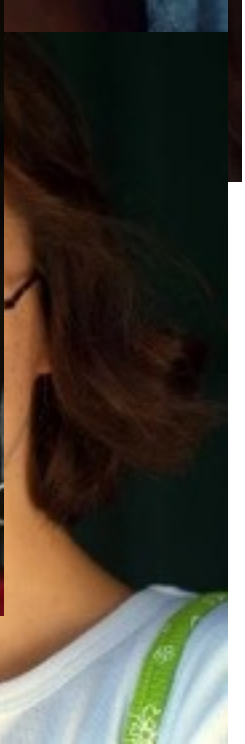
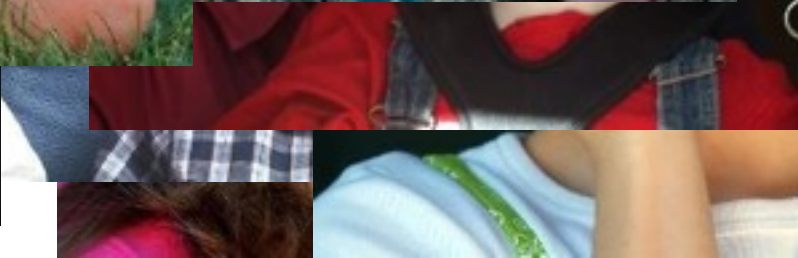
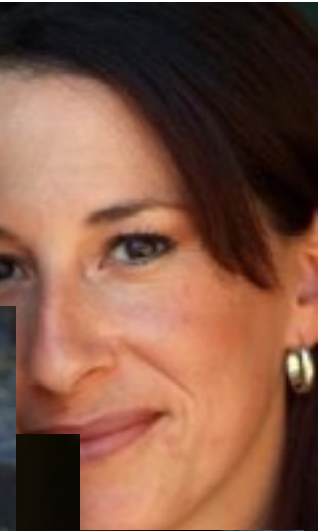
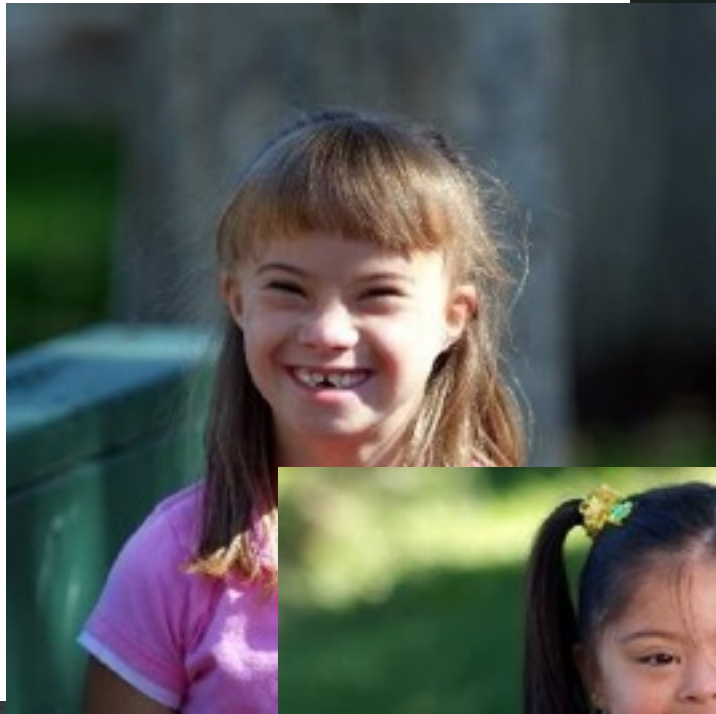
Report from the National Center for Education Statistics

Additional studies have found that parental involvement is more important to student success, *at every grade level*, than family income or education. However, Strong Families, Strong Schools, a report that reflects 30 years of research on family involvement in education, stated *the sad fact that "in many instances parents don't feel as if we welcome them in school."*

Self Assessment

- Partnerships from the Kitchen table to the Policy Table
- What happens at the school level informs what should happen at the policy level.





Mythbusting for Families

Fear-Based Thinking	Innovative Thinking
<i>My experience doesn't matter.</i>	<i>My experience could be a valuable teaching moment for my practice.</i>
<i>The "business" of education is too complex.</i>	<i>Most teachers and principles have children in the same school district, we have shared experiences.</i>
<i>FERPA regulations won't allow me to have access to quality reports</i>	<i>As a Family Leader I will sign a confidentiality statement like any other consultant</i>
<i>Education reform/quality improvement is too big and takes too much time.</i>	<i>Keeping the Public in Public Education is a win-win for everyone!</i>
<i>I don't have time to get involved.</i>	<i>Developing a clear and concise consulting framework will benefit myself and other families.</i>
<i>I've offered feedback in the past, but no one ever listens</i>	<i>Communicate differently.</i>

Fear-Based Thinking	Innovative Thinking
<i>Families are complainers</i>	<i>Families bring informed solutions</i>
<i>Don't understand the pressures of today's education standards</i>	<i>They are business owners too and have similar deadlines/pressures in their place of employment.</i>
<i>FERPA regs won't allow this</i>	<i>Family Leaders sign confidentiality statements like any other consultant</i>
<i>Developing strong parent/professional partnerships takes too much time</i>	<i>Efficiency is increased</i>
<i>Families are not available to participate</i>	<i>Develop contracts for equitable pay</i>
<i>The families we work with don't care</i>	<i>We haven't tried hard enough</i>

The Role of the Community

We forgot to tell the community!



Community Matters

- Community includes all who are interested in and affected by the quality of education outcomes.
- Always cultivate the champions within your community.

So What... Now What?



It's a New Day

The college graduates of the class of 2010, are the first class in the history of our country to go through their entire public education alongside their peers with disabilities!

The Next Generation of Leaders!



Can you grasp the significance?



The #1 Area of impact is:

Communication!

You need what?!



Sustainability Strategies

- Assure competence
- Cross-district impact reporting
- Implement core leadership strategies
- Leadership vs. Management
- Causal Leadership brings life to your mission
- Family Engagement activities can be embedded in all initiatives

You don't know until you try!



Partnership is not always easy!



Peer Support – K-12



Skills Development – Life After HS



Transition Planning

- *Transition planning is legacy planning*
- Have you reflected on your legacy plan?
- Will funding, programs and values live on even after you retire?
- As a Causal Leader, have your contributions made a difference?
- Legacy planning includes personal and professional contributions.

Legacy

What is Your LEGACY

- **L**ove -->- *Passion -->- Purpose*
- **E**nergy --- > *Positive attracts positive*
- **G**reatness --- > *Own it!*
- **A**dvocate --- > *Stand up for what you believe in*
- **C**ourage --- > *The bravery factor!*
- **Y**ou! --- > *Yes you!*

Legacy

- Reflect and consider yours....

Thank You!

Feel free to contact me at

720-404-7444

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