The Family Partnership Agreement Institute

The work that Head Start and Early Head Start programs do with families can be described as life changing. Partnering with families to address interests and concerns leads to goal setting which, in turn, helps strengthen families beyond their time in the program. Staff members responsible for partnering with families need an array of skills to nurture this life-changing relationship. The Family Partnership Agreement Institute demonstrates that a Family Partnership Agreement is more than just a set of completed forms; it is a continuous, ever-changing and on-going relationship between the program and the family. The institute will: focus on understanding how to partner with families; examine strategies for developing relationships with families; look at ways to use family strengths for the development of family goals; explore appropriate ways to use the family needs assessment that are consistent with the requirements of The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007; analyze Family Partnership Agreement as a process; and review strategies for documenting partnerships with parents.

Learning Outcomes

- Participants will better understand the importance of creating effective family partnerships;
- Participants will learn strategies for developing positive relationships with families;
- Participants will explore ways to identify family strengths and use those strengths to develop family goals;
- Participants will discuss methods for appropriate usage of the family needs assessment;
- Participants will better understand that the Family Partnership Agreement is a process, not a product; and
- Participants will explore strategies to document the Family Partnership Agreement process.

Agenda

**Day One (6 hrs)**

- Training Overview
- Developing Relationships with Families
- Understanding Family Strengths
- Reframing as a Tool to View Strengths
- Building Blocks to Family Support
- Becoming Customer Friendly
- Review of Relevant Standards
- Using the Parent Committee to Introduce the FPA Process

**Day Two (5 hrs)**

- The Family Partnership Agreement Process
- Selling the Process to Families
- Documenting the Process
- Looking Within and Next Steps