



Family, School, and Community Partnering Staff Self-Reflection Tool

Instructions: Research studies have shown that many educators do not receive preparation or specific training in how to partner effectively with families. This self-reflection tool, anchored in evidence of what works, is designed to support effective practices. It is suggested that individuals or teams complete the tool, assess strengths and challenges, then apply to practice and/or identify possible personnel development needs. This tool could be used as a pre-and post-test metric in working towards continuous improvement.

Name (or Team or Department):

Date:

Check each **“Do I...?”** action that is routinely included in partnering with families. Then, use the space below the list to record the number of checks, and summarize strengths and challenges. Use **“How can I...”** questions (on page 2) to guide conversations.

Do I . . . ?

1. _____ Connect with every family soon after school begins?
2. _____ Personally always start with a positive message?
3. _____ Talk about my desire to work together to help the student?
4. _____ Express the fact that family members’ input and perspective are important?
5. _____ Convey respect for family members as experts on their child?
6. _____ Identify the circumstances under which families feel more/less comfortable and try to understand those feelings?
7. _____ Approach families flexibly, offering multiple times, places, and modalities?
8. _____ Elicit, openly value, and use families’ input?
9. _____ Ask open-ended questions to get families’ full thoughts?
10. _____ Really listen to family members?
11. _____ Thank the families for listening, caring, and helping?
12. _____ Tell students that I am partnering with their families?
13. _____ Always communicate two-way, asking for family ideas, not just sharing my own?
14. _____ Productively problem-solve concerns so each student is successful?
15. _____ Ask what is needed as far as ideas about homework and various approaches that can support learning at home?

of Checks:

Strengths:

Challenges:



How Can I . . . ?

Generate an idea(s) to support implementation of each action. Use questions and ideas to guide conversations.

16. Use partnering language to promote teaming? For example:
 - a. Use common language (“us,” “we,” “let’s”)
 - b. Use family members’ words
 - c. Convey understanding
17. Ask the family for help in a respectful, mutually gratifying way?
18. Clarify responsibilities of each person?
19. Avoid advice giving?
20. Meet families “on their turf”?
21. Make events fun?
22. Make sure roles are meaningful?
24. Plan for and prevent logistical barriers?
25. Make time to build relationships with all families?
26. Gain confidence in my ability to talk comfortably with families?
27. Learn about each family’s unique culture?

Source: Adapted from Future of School Psychology Task Force on Family-School Partnerships. *Family-school partnership training modules*, 2007. Retrieved from http://fsp.unl.edu/future_index.htm.