

PARTNERING in *communities*

strong families. strong communities.



Appendix B. Project Purpose and Outcomes

Overarching Purpose

To nurture individual and organization commitments to create a strong community culture that supports parents in helping their children learn at home and in school.

Overarching Project Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Communicate and demonstrate a personal sense of influence for supporting parents in their role of helping their children learn.
- Contribute to a community environment that supports parents in their role of helping their children learn.

Partnering in Communities: Strong Families, Strong Communities

Session 1

Strong Communities . . . Focus on Family Strengths

Key Concepts

- World events and current theories about parenting influence parenting practices.
- Our individual beliefs and values about parenting affect our views about how others parent.
- Listening to parents describe their values and beliefs is important in designing services for them.
- Proven practices for parenting have been identified that can help parents make decisions about what is best to do in their own families to support their children as learners.
- Community environment influences the well-being and learning of children and youth in that community.

Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Examine their personal preferences and biases about parenting.
- Increase their understanding of current research on parenting practices.
- Reflect on ways to enhance their role as intentional partners with parents in helping all children learn at high levels.
- Describe the National Extension Parent Education Model (NEPEM) to others in their workplace.

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Session 2

Strong Communities . . . Listen to Families

Key Concepts

- Personal experiences affect the cultural characteristics of individuals and families.
- Listening to parents describe their values and beliefs is important in designing services with them.
- All families have strengths that may not be immediately evident to them or others.
- Families who are skilled and comfortable telling their own stories affect the kinds of services available to all families in a community.

Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Reflect on how their own cultural experiences have influenced their values and attitudes about parenting practices.
- Understand the importance of identifying family values and family strengths as starting points for communication.
- Identify resources and/or strategies to help families tell their stories and advocate for themselves.

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Session 3

Strong Communities . . . Encourage Healthy Family Environments

Key Concepts

- Local child well-being information can help community members and organizations identify possible advocacy issues for families.
- Temperaments of both the parent and the child affect parenting practices.
- The information parents need about their children changes as the children grow and develop.
- Good nutrition, physical activity, and sleep affect the learning potential of children and youth.
- A community can send its children and youth messages that deliberately promote good physical health and also can communicate unintentional messages that undermine healthy practices.

Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Explore how temperament influences parent/child interaction.
- Identify where to find information on the developmental stages of childhood and parenthood.
- Update their knowledge on the impact of good nutrition, physical activity, and sleep on the ability of community children and youth to learn.

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Session 4

Strong Communities . . . Support Family Learning Environments

Key Concepts

- Student achievement is an economic, a civic, and a social issue in communities.
- Individuals and organizations in communities contribute to Iowa's promises to its children and youth that they will be successful in school; healthy and socially competent; prepared for productive adulthood; and in safe and supportive schools, families, and communities.
- Research has identified proven practices for parents and communities in supporting children and youth as learners.
- The impact on children and youth is greatest when community organizations align their work around common goals.

Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Discuss the significance of the research findings regarding the impact of communities on the learning of local children and youth.
- Increase awareness of routines and learning activities in the home that can affect student learning at school.
- Identify partners who are critical in communicating the priority messages about helping children as learners to the community and to families.

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Session 5

Strong Communities . . . Model and Value Love and Limits

Key Concepts

- Different parenting styles produce different youth outcomes.
- Authoritative parents who provide both love and limits are more likely to nurture children who have self-confidence.
- Authoritative communities have identifiable characteristics that create a positive environment for families and youth to thrive.
- Parents need opportunities to learn guiding, nurturing, and motivating skills for integrating proven practices on learning into their family's lives.

Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Recognize the responsibility of families and communities to guide, nurture, and motivate the children and youth in the community.
- Identify the key information and skills that *Partnering in Communities* participants value and commit to communicating throughout the community.
- Develop an activity to encourage parents to use authoritative parenting strategies when integrating a proven practice for learning into their family's lives.

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Session 6

Strong Communities . . . Communicate Empowering Messages

Key Concepts

- Understanding the values, relationships, and activities of the intended audiences is important to ensure that the message reaches them.
- Being clear about what you want your audiences to do, what they will get from doing it, why they need to do it now, and what it will cost them are important to write a meaningful message.
- A good message must get the audiences' attention, hold their interest, stress the benefits for them, and call them to action.
- Successful community change programs require leaders who are committed to follow through on their role in the community plan, communicate regularly to analyze progress, and determine next steps to achieve the goal.

Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Communicate the key messages about community and family involvement in the lives of children and youth to ensure all are successful learners.
- Model key behaviors that have a positive impact on families and children/youth in the community.
- Develop a plan for communicating their key messages about supporting children as learners to the community as a whole and parents in particular.
- Complete their action team responsibilities to ensure a collaborative and supportive environment for all families and youth in the community.

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The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, Parent Information Resource Center program, under grant no. 84.310A and Iowa Award no. U310A60012; Iowa State University Extension to Families; and Iowa State University Excellence in Extension Innovative Program Grant for funding *Partnering in Communities: Strong Families, Strong Communities*.

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jack M. Payne, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.