

This webinar will assist caseworkers and caregivers to become more informed about their children's education. Strategies on how to build collaboration between caseworkers, caregivers, and the school will be provided along with ways to support the child in achieving positive education outcomes.

Teaming Up to Support Children in School

April 29, 2016



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Our Goals Today

- How to recognize and communicate your child's strengths, needs and supports for learning.
- Know the value of technology and use it to support your child's education
- Provide you with strategies for communicating with schools and caseworkers.



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It's a Team Effort

- As a caregiver or caseworker, I can assist in identifying the child's strengths, challenges and needs.
- Connect with teachers, classroom aides, social workers, coaches, daycare providers, therapists, doctors.

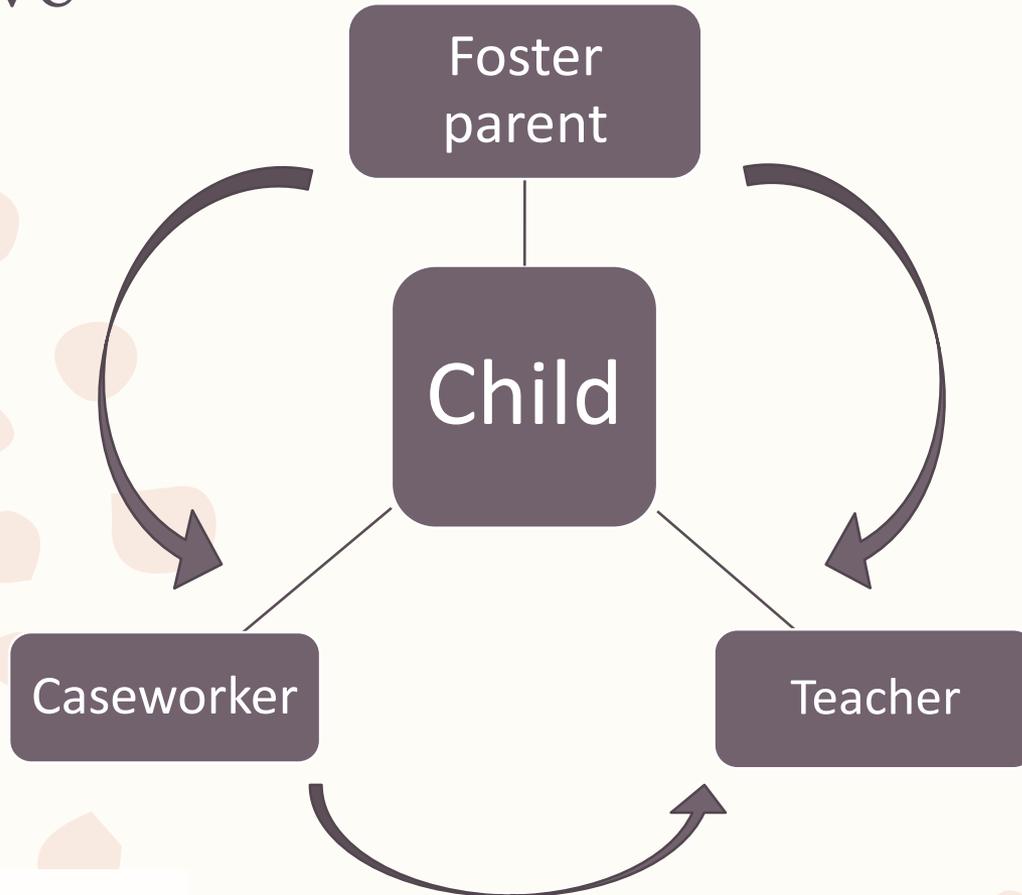


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Collaborating with your Child's Caseworker and Teacher for a Shared Objective



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All Children Have Strengths

- Health and physical development
- Intellectual/ Cognitive
- Emotional/ Psychological
- Social/Behavioral
- Resiliency factors



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Challenges to Learning Include Exposure to Traumatic Events

- Developmental/Functional

The stress and memories of traumatic experiences can derail development and achievement of functional skills

- Cognitive/Academic

Trauma can negatively impact academic progress.

- Social-Emotional

Trauma often interrupts emotional growth.



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Supports for Learning

- Competent/caring, positive adults
- Strong cultural identity
- Able to make sense of situations
- Education stability
- Supportive family, school & social connections



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Building & Maintaining Communication

- Introduce myself to the teacher and principal
- Ask for the preferred way to communicate
- Share information about my child's strengths, weaknesses, needs and trauma triggers.
- Attend school conferences & other functions
- Notify the teacher of the date for family visits
- Inform the teacher of the safety plan (or the medical management plan, if there is one)
- Questions to ask the teacher to become aware of my child's progress (list)



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Supporting My Child's Caseworker:

- **SHARE** . . . and keep a file record of meetings, report cards . . . the child's strengths, weakness and needs, IEPs and 504 plans, RTI supports, notice of suspension, a letter of expulsion, changes in behavior regarding family and sibling visits.
- **SHARE** . . . achievements, merits and awards, co-therapy participation, the invitation to attend parent-teacher conferences and other scheduled meetings.

Are there any questions from participants up to this point?



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Enhancing Communication Through Technology

- School and Classroom Websites
- Teacher Blogs
- The Parent Portal
- Email
- Text messages
- Voice Mail



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Keeping Your Child On-Track Through Technology

- Visit the school's parent portal to get class-specific information.
- Monitor attendance, whether assignments are turned-in, and your child's grades.
- Email teachers with questions or concerns.

<http://impact.cps.edu/downloads/ParentPortalOrientationForParents.pdf>



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Family Engagement Is Critical To School Success

- Improves student achievement
- Reduces absenteeism
- Restores parent's confidence in their child's education



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How Students Benefit From Family Engagement

- Earning higher grades and achievement test scores
- Better social skills
- Show improved behavior
- Higher motivation
- Movement to post-secondary education



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Advocating for Services to Support Stability and Foster Growth

- Social skills groups
- At school homework help
- Study groups
- Check-In and Check-Out
- Academic support on-line
- Referral for a special education IEP
- Referral for a Section 504 plan



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What other things can I do to support my child's education?

- Ensure regular school attendance
- Review your child's daily planner
- Access the school's website for class information
- Reserve a time and a quiet place for homework
- Maintain school placement (and avoid unnecessary school transfers)
- Keep a file of school records for your child



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Your Involvement (What You Do) At Home Is Significant

Two factors of parental involvement that were found to be most influential:

1. Reading and communicating with your child.
2. Parenting style and expectations

Having an organized and structured home environment is a plus.



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Fostering My Child's Growth

Caseworkers and foster parent should encourage youth to participate in:

- Extra-curricular activities
- The development of the annual high school plan
- Attend college/technical/vocational fairs
- Encourage a hobby or special interest
 - Support volunteerism & service to others
 - Join a scout group or church group
 - Make time for a summer job/employment
 - Start a savings account
 - Maintain a Life Book
 - Teach youth how to self-advocate



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Who to Ask?

Who do I talk to at school about addressing my child's needs and getting the right supports?



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Who to talk with AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL:

Your Child's Teacher:

Academic progress and interventions like RTI, work habits, homework social/emotional functioning, behavior at school and need for additional support such as tutoring.

The Principal can address questions about:

Discipline of students

Answer questions and accept referrals for Special Education and Section 504 plans.

Arrange for counseling and social work services for children whose trauma interferes with their education.



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At The Middle School and High School Level each of these people have important roles:

- Principal
- Assistant Principal
- Guidance Office
- School Social Worker
- Special Education Coordinator
- Teachers



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Communication

is the Key to Fostering Success
for a Better Future



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To Learn More About This Topic:

- <http://ccwe.niu.edu/ccwe/>
- www.illinois.gov/dcfs
- www.isbe.net

- www.nctsn.org
- http://neatoday.org/2014/11/18/the-enduring-importance-of-parental-involvement-2/#.Vq_
- <http://neatoday.org/2014/04/24no-parental-involvement-is-not-overrated>
- <http://www.hfrp.org/publications-resources/browse-our>
- <http://www.promoteprevent.org/sites>
- <http://www.hfrp.org/publications-resources/publications-series/family-involvement-research...>
- [Http://www.hfrp.org/FINENewsletter](http://www.hfrp.org/FINENewsletter)



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These handouts can be downloaded when you complete the evaluation.

- 314 tip sheet
- Annual High school plan
- Consents & responsibilities Tip sheet
- Rtl NEA hand-out
- School Fees Tip sheet
- School Transfer Tip sheet
- Enrollment Tip sheet



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