



Family Partnership Agreement

This paper describes the use of a version of the Family Map that includes a process to document the process with a Family Partnership Agreement.

Whiteside-Mansell, L., Bays, J., Kimbriel, L. (November, 2012) The Infant-Toddler Family Map Inventory: Integrating Family Engagement, Reporting, and Parent Partnership Agreements. Paper to be presented at the Region VI Head Start Association Conference, Rogers, Arkansas.

Family engagement occurs when there is a partnership between families and their child's caregivers. These partnerships should be reciprocal, on-going, and characterized by high quality communication. This exchange of knowledge should be bi-directional – family members have unique knowledge of the child's life, and caregivers have access to resources less available to parents. Past models of family engagement viewed this partnership as primarily parent-initiated; however, many, including the Office of Head Start's National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (NCPFCE), recognize the role of programs to engage and involve parents in partnership with childcare professionals.

The Family Map Inventories are semi-structured interviews developed to assess important aspects of the family and home environment associated with well-being in prenatal mothers and parents of children birth to 5-years old. The inventories can be used during enrollment, at parent-teacher conferences, or in home visits. The inventories can also be spread across more than one of these contacts. The Family Map initiates critical conversations and leads to stronger partnerships with families. It systematically identifies areas of concern and potential protective factors in the home and parenting environment of children. Past implementations of the Family Map provide evidence of its usefulness and feasibility and have informed the development of training materials.

This presentation described the integration of the Family Map Inventories for pregnant mothers and for parents of infants and toddlers into a large rural Head Start program. We will share the current process for the implementation. We will discuss the barriers we addressed and our recommendations of the process to adopt the Family Map. The Family Map has allowed our program to consolidate a variety of mandatory data collection into a single format. It also allows teachers and parents to identify critical family goals to help support the child in the home environment.

www.thefamilymap.org