Stepping Up Family Engagement from Birth Through High School

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

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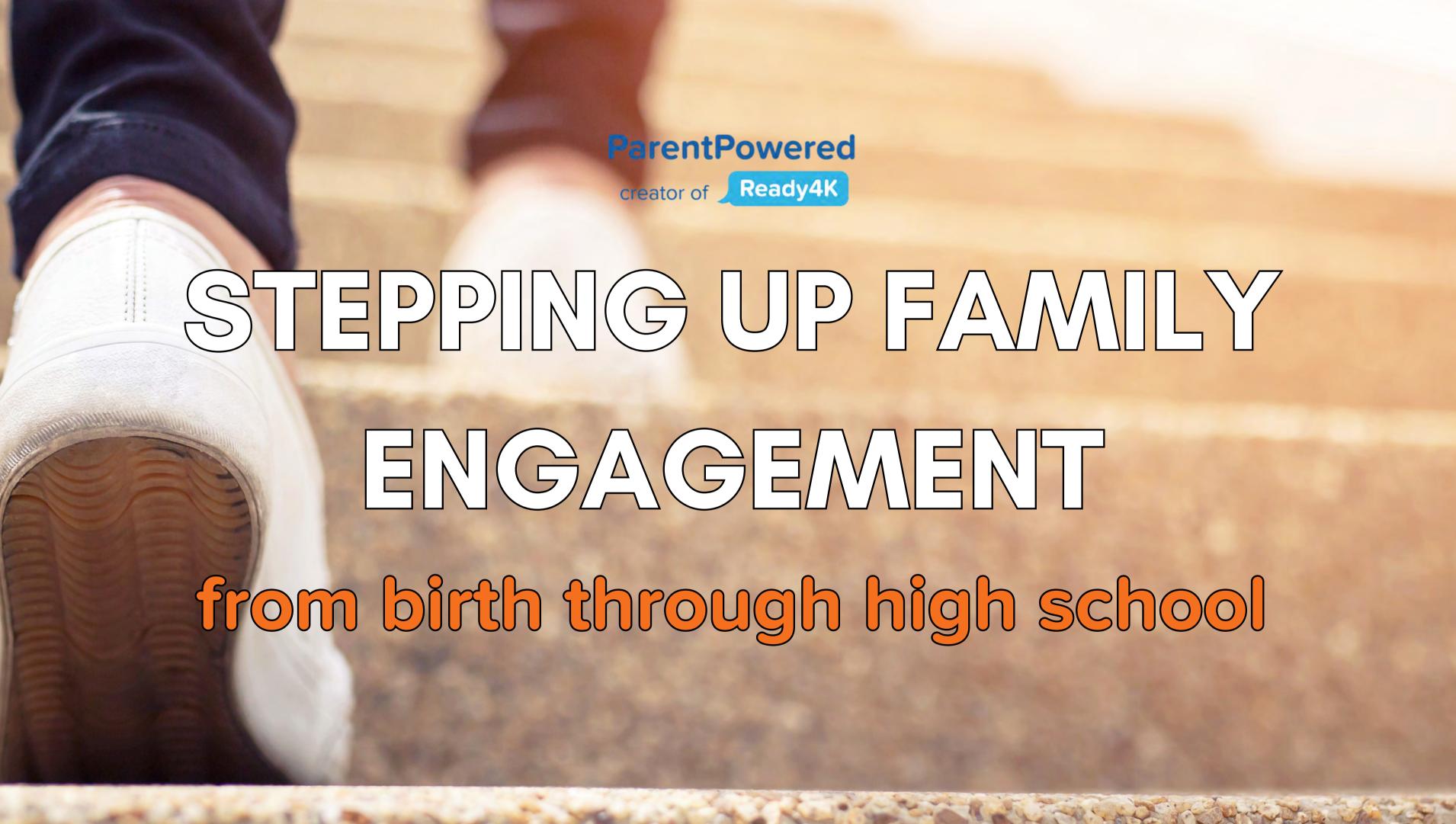
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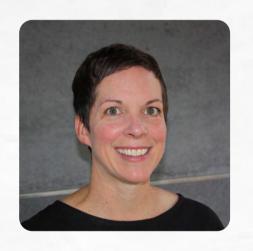# INTRODUCTION

OUR PRESENTERS

Rebecca Honig, M.S.Ed

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Mallary I. Swartz, PhD

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DEFINING FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Family engagement is the ongoing partnership between families, schools and the community at large to support and strengthen the learning, development and wellbeing of all children and families.

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Quality family engagement can have a lasting effect on a child's social-emotional and physical health, school readiness, academic achievement, attendance, graduation rates and later success in life

(e.g. Smith, Robbins, Stagman, & Mahur, 2013; Van Voorhis, Maier, Epstein, & Lloyd, 2013; Henderson, & Mapp, 2003). (e.g. Hayes, 2012).
(Michaels & Ferrara 2005)

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Family Engagement that Grows with the Child

BUS STOP

From Captain

To Copilot

Infant to Grade 8

GOALS

- Explore the evidence and impact behind family engagement at every age and stage of development
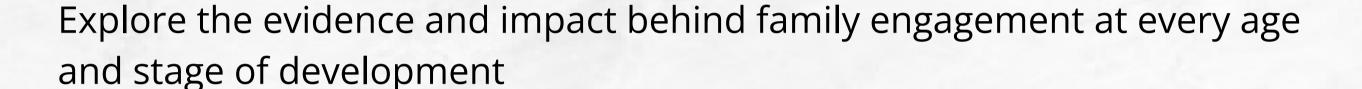
- Look at effective practices when it comes to partnering with families throughout their journey from birth through 12th grade

- Discuss holistic habits, mindsets and behaviors that are essential for effective engagement across all ages

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WHAT STAYS THE SAME?

RESPONSIVE

Co-create based on:

- Families' cultures, lived experiences, strengths and needs
- School and community: strength and needs

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STRENGTH-BASED

- Doable
- Scaffolded
- Leverages relationships, cultures, traditions

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ACCESSIBLE

- Home language
- Multiple ways to join in
- Always notice who's not at the table.

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EFFECTIVE

- Rooted in evidence
- Continuous evaluation

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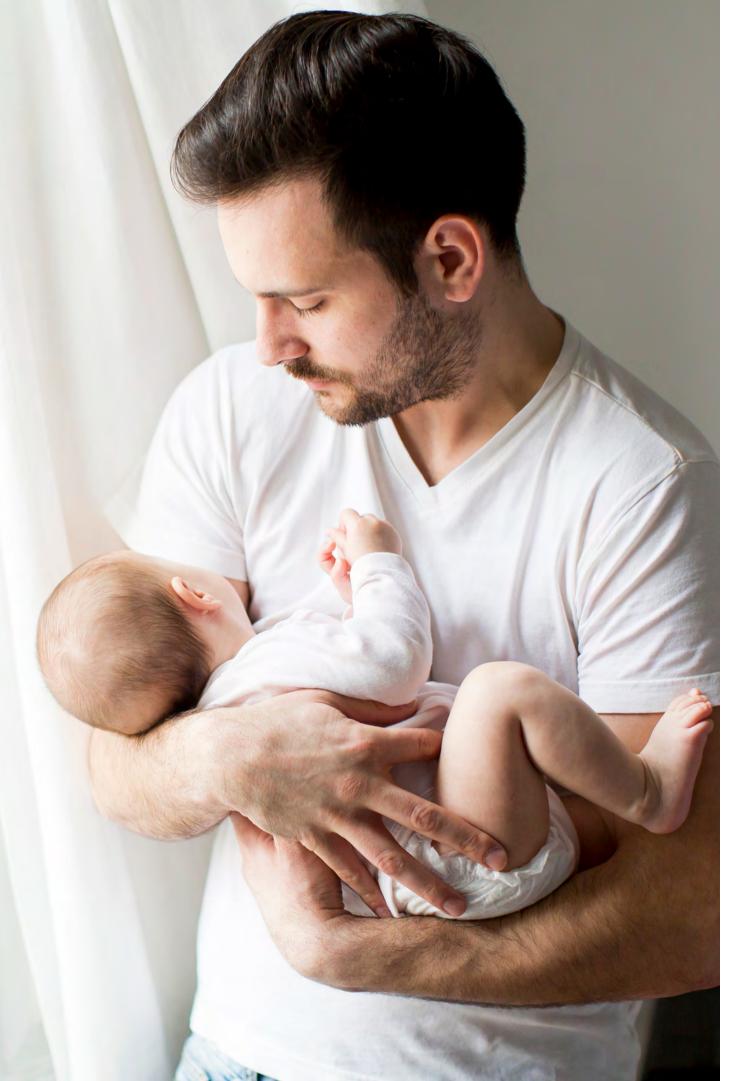
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AT EVERY AGE AND STAGE

BIRTH TO AGE 3

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"EVERY CHILD NEEDS AT LEAST ONE ADULT WHO IS IRRATIONALLY CRAZY ABOUT HIM OR HER."
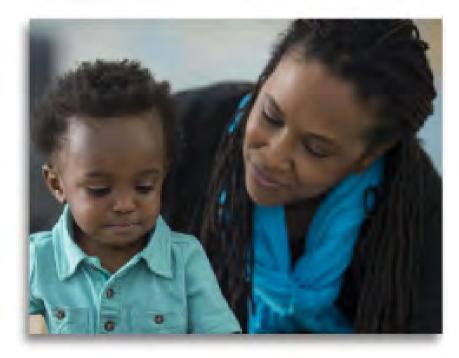– URIE BRONFENBRENNER

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THE RESEARCH:
BIRTH TO AGE 3

- Rapid brain development
- Attachment and the parent-child relationship
- Temperament
- Everyday learning
- Social support
- Parent well-being and mental health

(e.g., Jeon, Kyong-Ah Kwon, Guss, & Horm, 2020; Kathan, 2023; Dunst, Bruder, Trivette, & Hamby, 2006; Simpson & Rholes, 2008; Cook, Roggman, & Boyce, 2011)

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0-3 CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Language & Literacy

Topics Include

- Language and Listening
- Vocabulary Growth and Development
- Phonics and Phonological Awareness
- Emergent Reading and Writing Skills

STEAM & Play

Topics Include

- Science Exploration and Discovery
- Technology and Engineering (Inventing and Building)
- Art
- Math
- Play

Social Emotional Learning

Topics Include

- Relationships and Interactions
- Sense of Self

- Emotional Understanding and Self-Regulation
- Parental Self-Care, Confidence, and Resilience
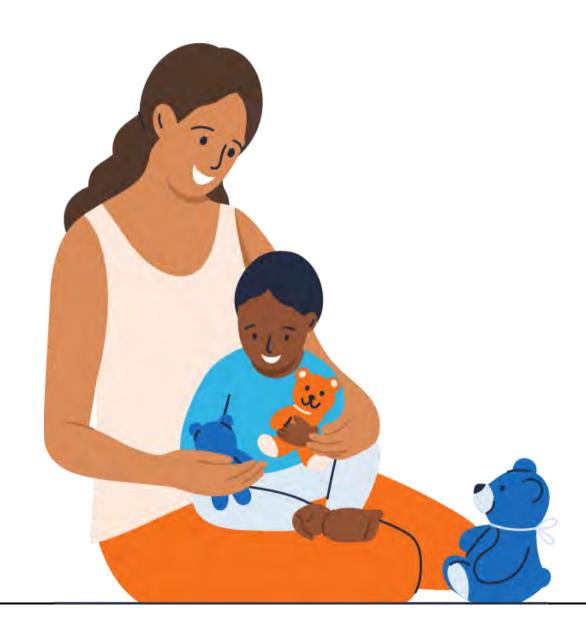
Physical Development

Topics Include

- Perception
- Gross and Fine Motor
- Physical Safety
- Health

Approaches to Learning

Topics Include

- Best Practices (eg. child led learning, developing consistent routines)
- Cognitive Self-Regulation
- Learning Behaviors

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WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1 **GET TO KNOW FAMILIES' UNIQUE STRENGTHS, NEEDS, AND GOALS**

- Use an equity lens and culturally and linguistically responsive approach
- Invite parents to share their expertise

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2 **BUILD STRONG PARENT-STAFF RELATIONSHIPS**

- Home visits
- Regular communication
- Welcoming environment

3 **CREATE COMMUNITY AND PEER CONNECTIONS**

- Concrete supports
- Virtual and in-person opportunities

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PRE-K

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THE RESEARCH:
PRE-K

- Social-emotional development
- Academic development
- Child-led active learning
- Transition to kindergarten

(e.g., McWayne, Hahs- Vaughn, Cheung, & Green, 2012; Bulotsky-Shearer et al., 2012; Powell, Son, File, & San Juan, 2010; McWayne, Hampton, Fantuzzo, Cohen, & Sekino, 2004; Yogman, Garner, Hutchinson, Hirsh-Pasek, & Golinkof, 2018)

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PK CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Language & Literacy

Topics Include

- Speaking and Listening
- Vocabulary Growth and Development
- Phonics and Phonological Awareness
- Print, Book, and Alphabet Knowledge
- Reading Comprehension
- Writing

Math & Science

Topics Include

- Counting and Cardinality
- Geometry and Spatial Sense
- Operations and Algebraic Thinking
- Measurement and Data
- Scientific Reasoning

Technology and Engineering & the Arts

Topics Include

- Inventing and Building
- Art and Creative Expression

SEL & Health

Topics Include

- Self-Awareness and Self-Esteem
- Relationships, Family, and Community
- Executive Functioning and Independence
- Health and Safety

Play

Topics Include

- Active Play
- Pretend Play
- Games
- Dramatic Play

Home & School Partnership

Topics Include

- Parent & Teacher Communication
- Focusing on Learning
- Connecting at Home
- Connecting at School

Approaches to Parenting

Topics Include

- Best Practices (e.g. encouraging exploration, developing consistent routines)
- Protective Factors
- Parental Self-Care and Positive Parenting

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WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1 **OFFER VARIED OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES TO SHARE IN THEIR CHILDREN'S LEARNING**

- Open house
- Parent-child activities
- Virtual engagement

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2 ## SUPPORT PARENTS AS ADVOCATES, LEADERS, AND DECISION MAKERS

- Policy councils
- Events and training
- Spotlight: Parent Ambassadors program

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(3) CREATE INTENTIONAL FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- Address power imbalance in parent-teacher conferences
- Re-envision family meetings
- Build collaborative transition teams

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (K-5)

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THE RESEARCH:
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Transition to formal school
- New systems and routines to understand
- Classroom dynamic
- Direct parental involvement and support

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (K-5)

Students

- Increase math and literacy scores
- Higher rates of attendance
- Increased self-confidence and motivation
- Sense of belonging; deeper parental connection

Family Unit

- Wider support system
- increased access to resources
- increase ability to advocate

Educators

- Understand student's learning needs
- Partnership based on trust and respect
- increased involvement and educational support

School Community

- More satisfied educators
- Improved school culture
- Positive school climate

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ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

English Language Arts

Topics Include

- Speaking and Listening
- Language
- Reading: Foundations and Phonics
- Reading: Literature and Informational Text
- Writing

Social-Emotional Learning

Topics Include

- Self-Awareness and Self Esteem
- Relationships, Family, and Community
- Emotional Understanding and Self-Regulation
- Executive Functioning and Independence
- Problem Solving, Conflict Resolution, and Resilience

Math & Science

Topics Include

- Numbers, Counting, and Cardinality
- Operations and Algebraic Thinking
- Numbers and Operations in Base Ten

- Measurement and Data
- Geometry
- Numbers and Operations-Fractions
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Explore, Experiment & Observe

Home & School Partnership

Topics Include

- Parent & Teacher Communication
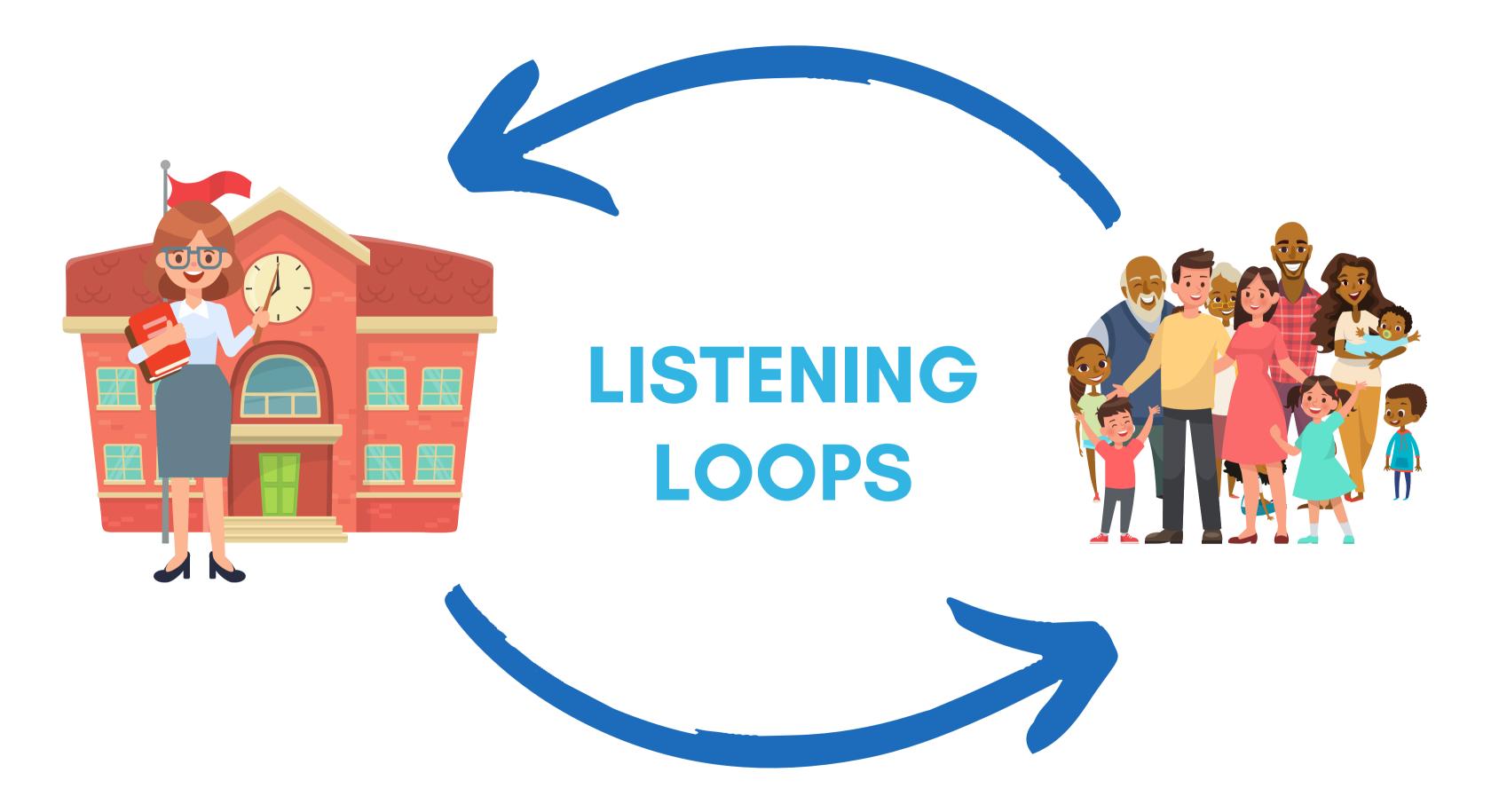- Connecting at Home
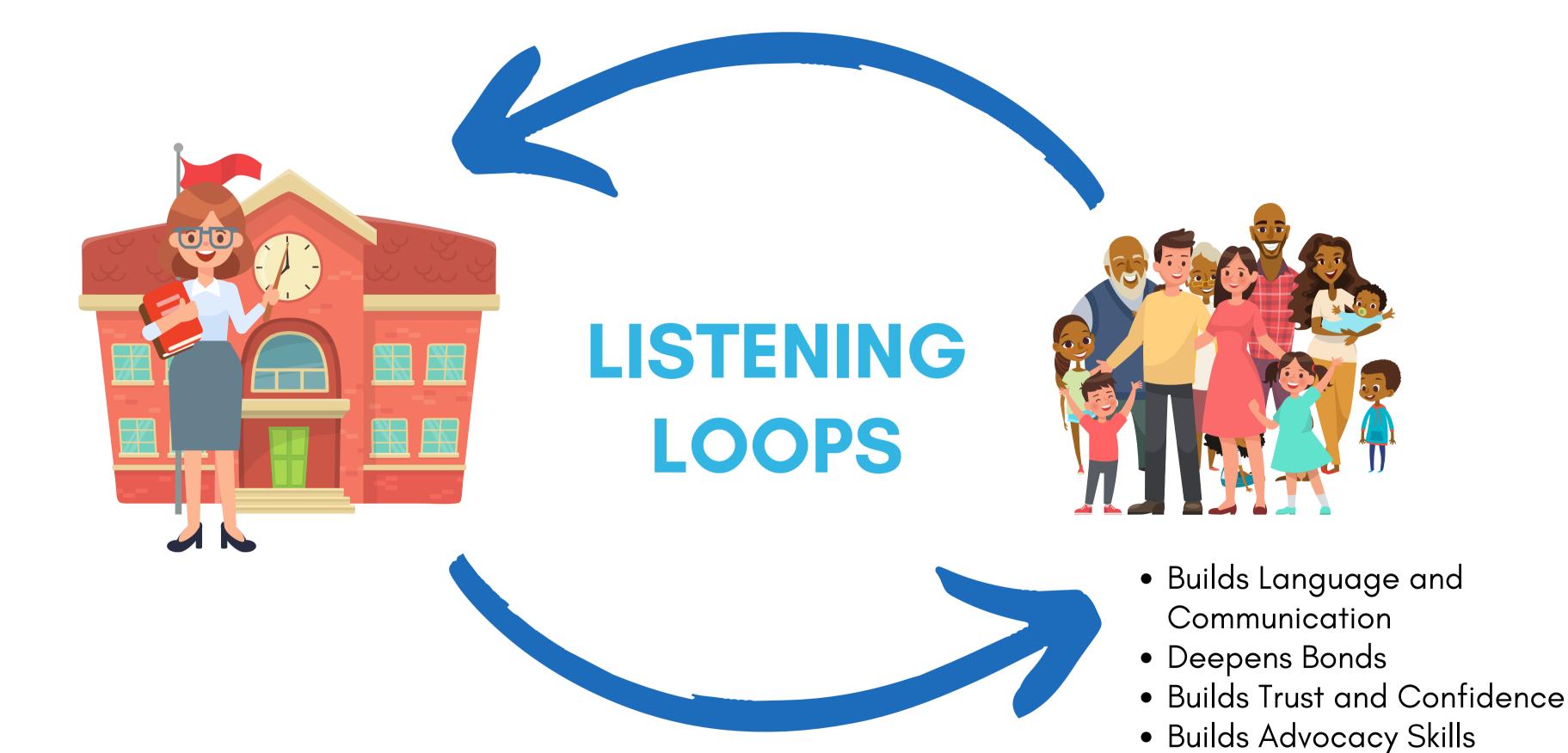- Focusing on Learning

Approaches to Parenting

Topics Include

- Self-Care Routines
- Protective Factors
- Parental Social Emotional Learning

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WHAT CAN YOU DO?

LISTENING LOOPS

LISTENING LOOPS

- Builds Language and Communication
- Deepens Bonds
- Builds Trust and Confidence
- Builds Advocacy Skills
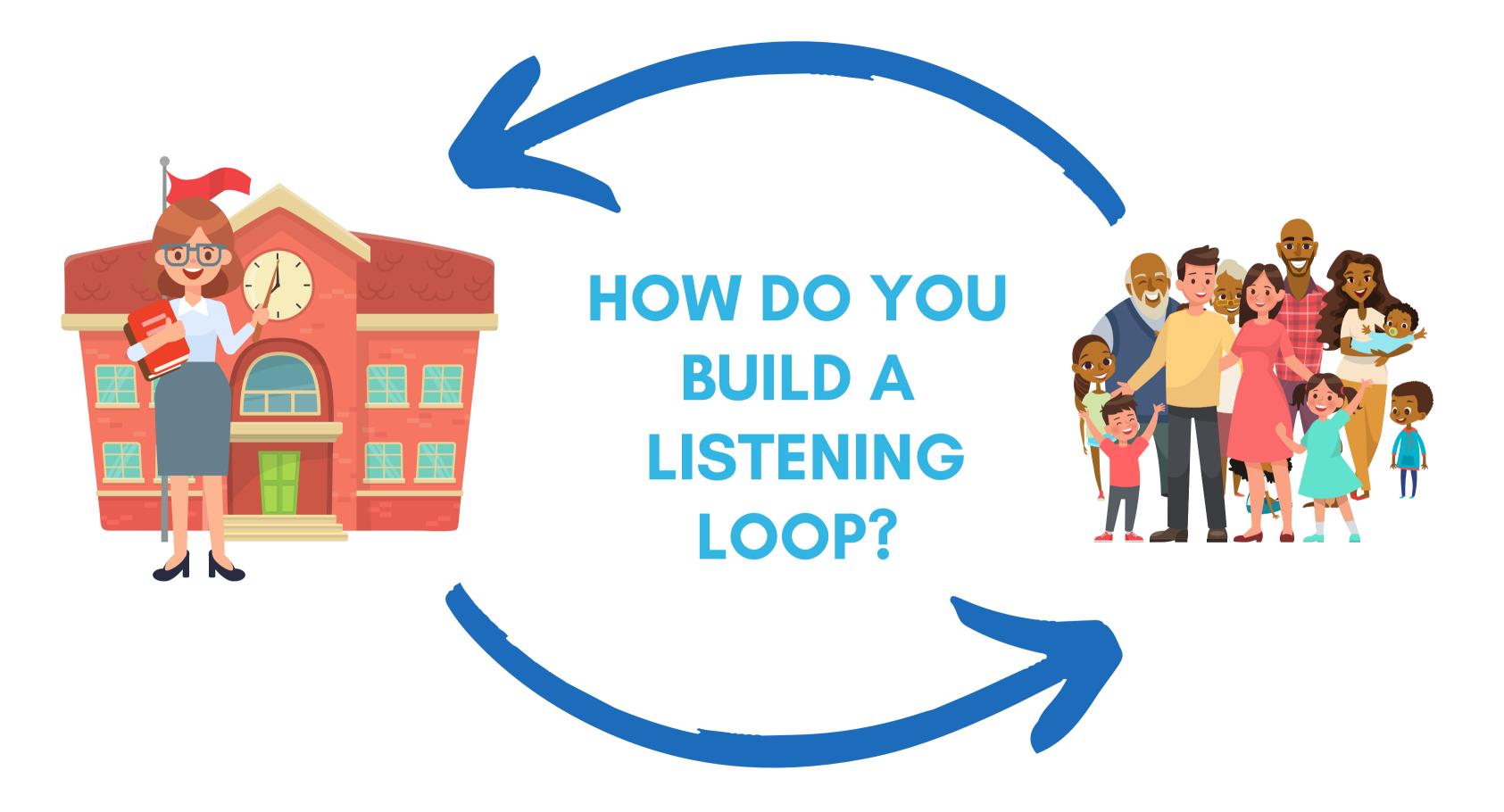
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LISTENING LOOPS

- Foundation of trust
- Discover needs
- Meet needs

- Builds Language and Communication
- Deepens Bonds
- Builds Trust and Confidence
- Builds Advocacy Skills

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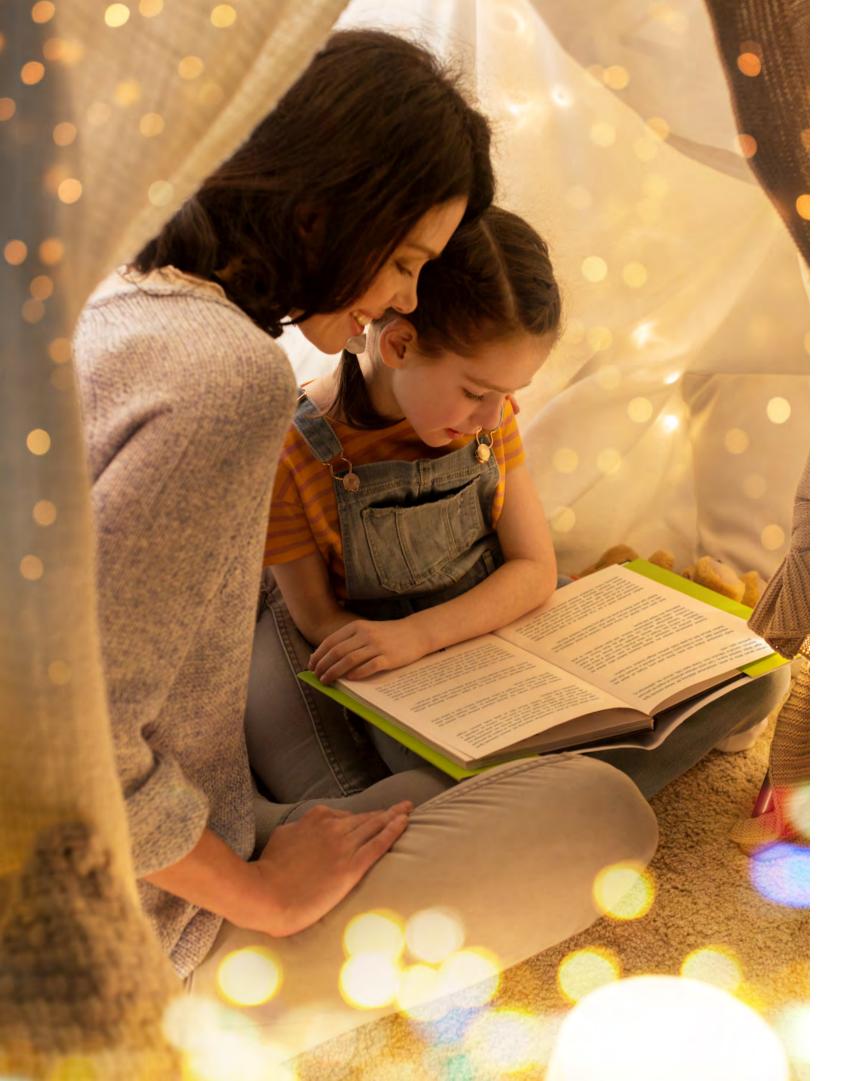HOW DO YOU BUILD A LISTENING LOOP?

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BUILDING A LISTENING LOOP...
IN THE CLASSROOM

- Use existing routines
- Offer clear pathways of communication
- Set expectations

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BUILDING A LISTENING LOOP…
AT HOME

- Offer specific questions
- Communicate small wins
- Build consistency

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MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADE 6-8)

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THE RESEARCH:
MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Higher rates of self-reliance
- Higher GPA
- Better physical health
- Positive career-planning aspirations
- Lower rates of depression and delinquency
- Parents want to engage!!

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Hurdles to Engagement

1. **CONTEXT**
2. **CONTENT**
3. **DEVELOPMENT**

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MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Academic Supports

Topics Include

- Growth Mindset
- Academic Socialization & Learning Connections
- Effective Study & Learning Skills
- Homework

Social-Emotional Learning

Topics Include

- Sense of Self
- Independence & Executive Function
- Relationships
- Emotions & Development

Home & School Partnership

Topics Include

- Reciprocal Communication
- Attendance
- Transitions
- Advocacy & Involvement

Approaches to Parenting

Topics Include

- Knowledge of Adolescent Growth & Development
- Reflective Practices
- Mindsets & Modeling
- Self-Care

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WHAT CAN YOU DO?

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1 **BE EXPLICIT**

Let parents and caregivers know:

- Why it matters
- What it looks like
- How it will happen

*Offer visibility into Middle School Systems and how to navigate.

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2 COLLABORATE ON STRATEGIES

- Meet as teams
- Choose cross-cutting strategies.
  - Self-regulation
  - homework routines
  - Self-advocacy

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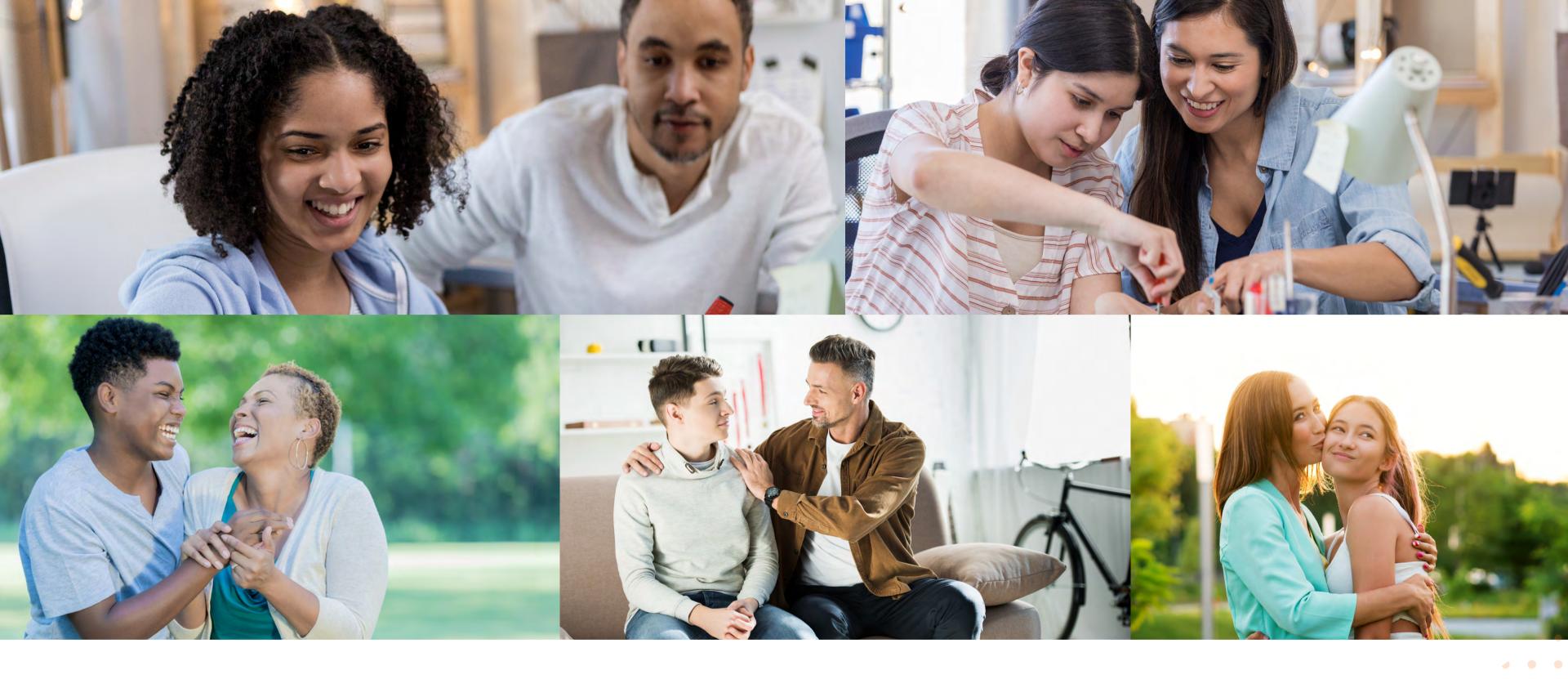**3** # HONOR INDEPENDENCE

Student-Led:

- Conferences
- Workshops
- Forums

*Parents & students partner in planning

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HIGH SCHOOL (GRADE 9-12)

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THE RESEARCH:
HIGH SCHOOL

- Upward mobility
- Motivation
- Career clarity
- Asperations for the future
- Adolescents want engagement!!

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HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Academics & Lifelong Learning
Topics Include
- Universal skills
- Academic socialization
- Growth mindset
- Sense-of-self and Self-advocacy
- Self-directed learning
- Attendance

Well-Being & Life Skills
Topics Include
- Independence and Executive function
- Financial literacy
- Relationships and Community
- Healthy technology habits
- Reflective choices and Decision-making
- Mental Health and Resilience

College & Career Readiness
Topics Include
- Self-reflection
- Career exploration
- Aspirations and Goal setting
- Education/ Training research
- Planning and Preparing
- Implementing (deadlines, applications)

Home & School Partnership
Topics Include
- Transitions
- Graduation requirements
- Attendance
- Advocacy
- Communication

Approaches to Parenting
Topics Include
- Knowledge of adolescent development
- Reflective practices
- Mindsets and Modeling
- Communication
- Developmentally responsive support

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HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

College & Career Readiness

Topics Include

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HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

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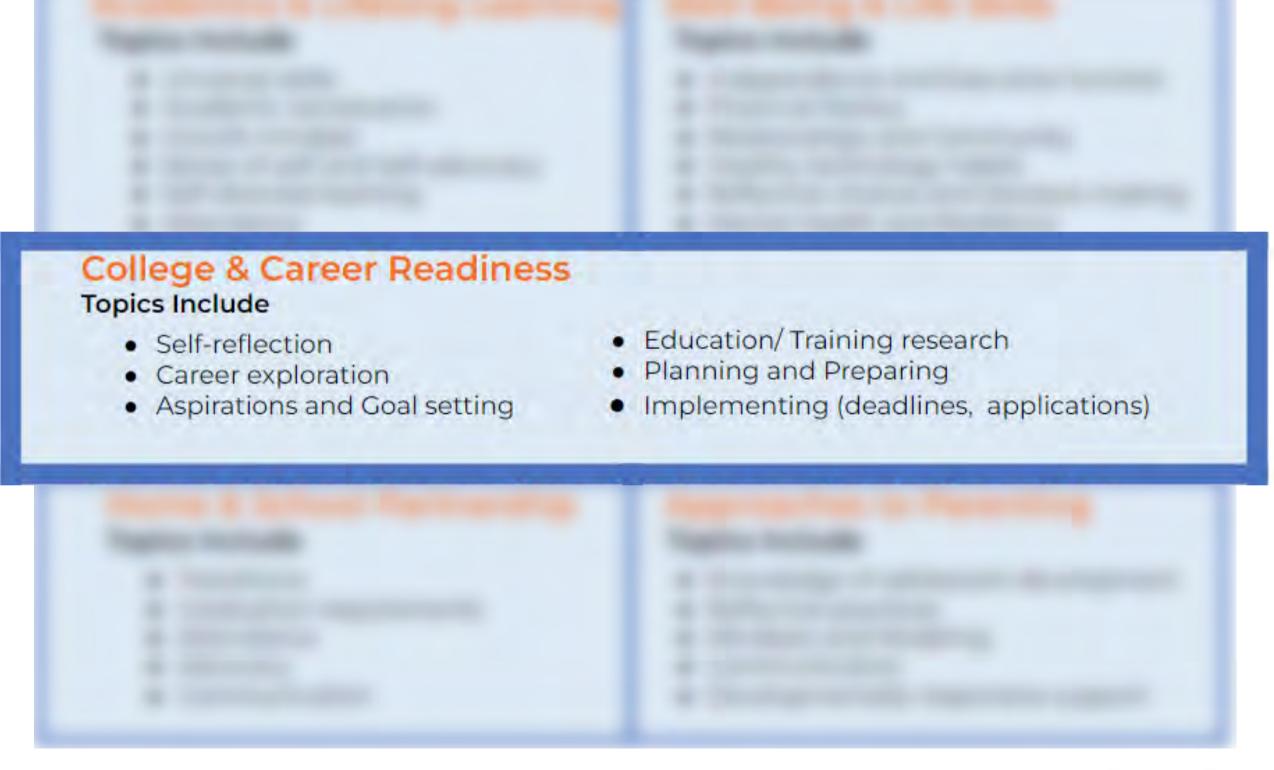
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- Mindsets and Modeling
- Communication
- Developmentally responsive support

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MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

"Mental health among students overall continues to worsen, with more than 40% of high school students feeling so sad or hopeless that they could not engage in their regular activities for at least two weeks during the previous year."

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) Data Summary & Trends Report 2023 [PDF]. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/YRBS_Data-Summary-Trends_Report2023_508.pdf
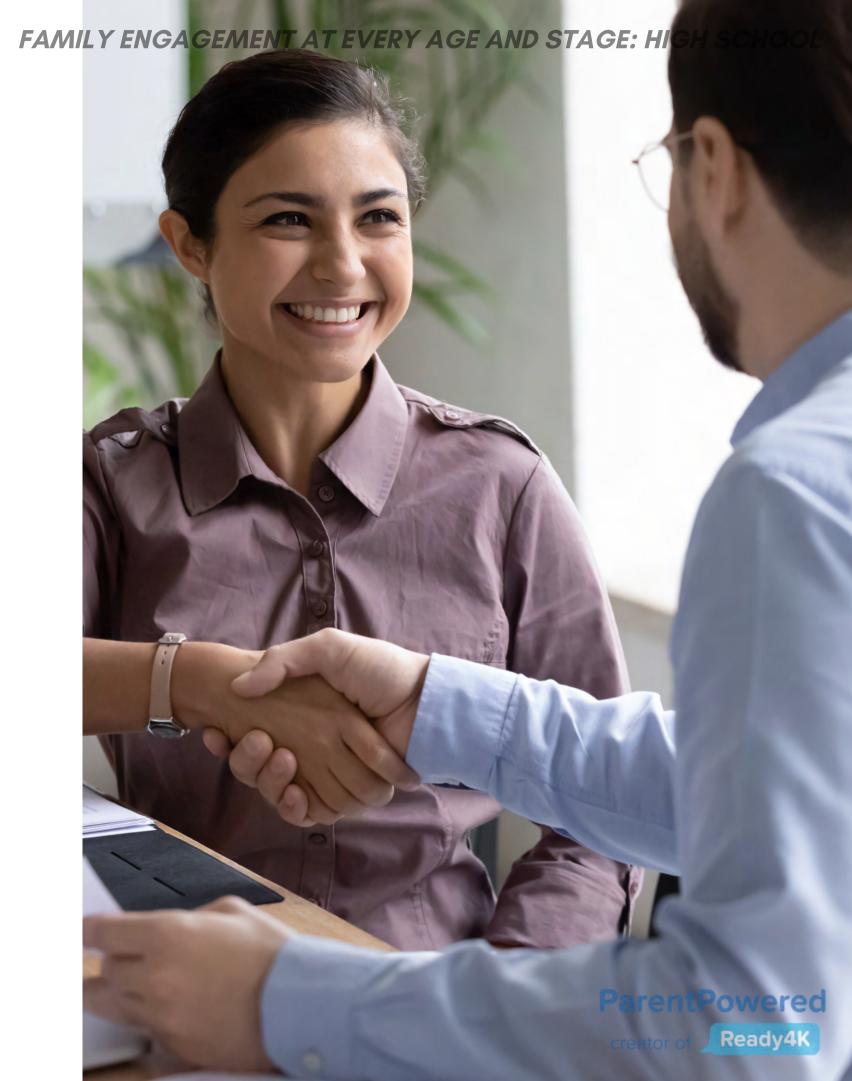
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WHAT CAN YOU DO?

ELICIT PARTNERSHIP IN POST SECONDARY PLANNING

- Map parents onto ILPs
- Utilize Parents as career experts and mentors
- Create Learning Communities

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CENTER MENTAL HEALTH

- Involve community partners
- Elevate student voice
- Facilitate parent dialogue

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RECAP

- The research is in, family engagement is critical at every age and stage.
- Effective practices shift with development and school context.
- Some things remain the same. At every age:
  - Listening leads to responsive and collaborative engagement.
  - Strength-based and accessible engagement is key.
  - Ongoing research and evaluation guides great engagement.

AT EVERY AGE AND STAGE, FAMILIES NEED TO KNOW THEIR ENGAGEMENT **MATTERS**

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

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Interested in learning more about ParentPowered's evidence-based family engagement program for birth through grade 12?

LET'S TALK!

info@parentpowered.com

http:// bit.ly/3LpI0N2

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FACT: As a parent, you are part of the middle school team! Everyone wins when you keep in touch with the school, ask questions, and share about your family.

TIP: Check out the school website. Can you find the school calendar, teacher contact information, and how to see your child's grades? If not, reach out to ask.

GROWTH: Keep connecting. Ask your child, "Who teaches your favorite class?" Send an email to let the teacher know. Ask the best way to stay in touch too.

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