



Presents

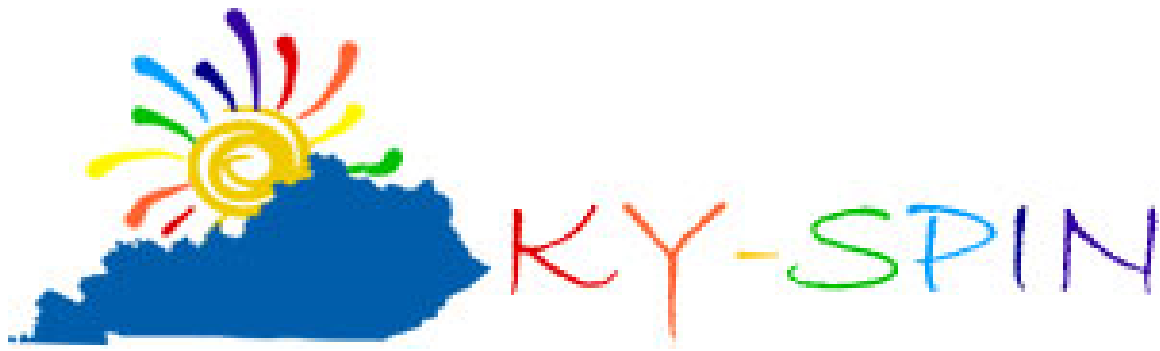
**“Family Engagement:
What It Is, What It Means to You
and Tips Along the Way”**

KY-SPIN

(Special Parent Involvement Network)

Parent Training & Information (PTI) Center

Funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education under IDEA since 1988 when Kentucky first received a PTI. KY-SPIN Parent Center provides training, information and support for children and youth with all types of disabilities (birth through 26 years old), their parents, families, and professionals.



We do NOT:
Act as Attorneys

We DO:

- ♥ Empower Families to Effectively Advocate for their Children
- ♥ Provide “peer to peer” support to help families access needed information and resources



Family

Anyone who loves, cares and supports a child/youth



What does Family Engagement mean to you?



Let's abandon the notion that
Family Engagement equals
attending School Events



Family Engagement

- ▶ Looks different for each family & school
- ▶ Means something different to everyone
- ▶ Includes whole family
- ▶ Puts child/youth as the main focus





At the Core

Family Engagement starts with a Relationship.

What are the characteristics of great relationship you have?

Successful Relationships

- ▶ Mutual respect and value
- ▶ Strong two-way Communication
- ▶ Builds on everyone's strengths
- ▶ Everyone is equal
- ▶ Ability to problem solve
- ▶ Honors each persons view even if you do not agree
- ▶ Help one another
- ▶ Don't blame one another or hold grudges



Building School - Family Relationship

- ▶ Hi, How are you today? Hope you all have a great day!
- ▶ Start by reaching out without a reason
- ▶ Share with one another great things you see
- ▶ Share what works for you
- ▶ Take opportunities outside of meetings
- ▶ Be honest with one another
- ▶ Allow disagreements
- ▶ Bring solutions to the table
- ▶ Respond to one another



Family - School Partnership =
Family Engagement



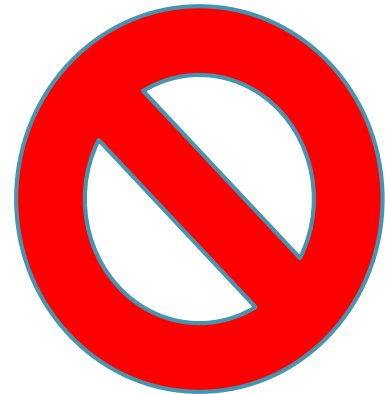
Ways to Embrace Strong Family - School Partnership

Involve families at all levels

- ▶ Open door policy
- ▶ Make time available
- ▶ Share information
- ▶ Use language we all know
- ▶ Ask
- ▶ Help
- ▶ Plan together



Don't Judge or Let Past
Experiences Effect
Current Relationships



Each Child/Youth Needs someone at
School to make them a Priority

Each Child/Youth needs to feel special and
valued just as each family does!

This allows for a Strong Family – School
Partnership and will increase Family
Engagement



PRIORITY

What are some characteristics of good
Family - School Partnership to you?



Together we can accomplish great things for our children!



None of us have all the answers, we are all working through this and adjusting as we go.

If you still have
questions...



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Information modified from Family Network on
Disabilities of FL with their permission
Sources: OSEP, DoDEA, OCR, PACER, CIPR,
KY P&A, FND of FL, IDEA, KAR, KDE