Playing with Numbers:
A Family Engagement Framework for Educators at Chicago Children’s Museum

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Erikson Institute Promising Math
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Session Objectives

- Understand CCM’s approach to family engagement
- Practice using a strengths-based mindset
- Analyze modes of communication between families and teachers
- See outcomes of PWN family engagement projects
- Reflect on how these resources apply to your own setting
**Vision**

We bring people together to make a better world where play and joyful human connection are the foundation for thriving children and stronger communities.

To improve children’s lives by creating a community where play and learning connect.

**Mission**

**Museum As Engine**

**Perform With Excellence**

**Lead And Influence**

**Connect And Engage**
PLAYING WITH NUMBERS POWERED BY CHICAGO CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
Our Central Problem:

How do we bring our passion for play and learning to math experiences in the home?
Bringing play-based early math to...

- teachers.
- classrooms.
- families.

PWN Level 1

PWN Level 2

PWN Level 3
What is “family engagement”?
“Partnering with Families and Communities”
(from National Board Standards)

“Accomplished early childhood teachers work **reciprocally** with families and community partners to support each child’s development and learning and to advocate for young children and their families.”
“Principles of Effective Family Engagement” *(from NAEYC)*

“Programs and teachers engage families in ways that are truly reciprocal.”

“Families & Educators Together: Building Great Relationships that Support Young Children” *(from NAEYC)*

“...implies that this responsibility falls on more than just the parents: siblings, relatives, and even friends play an important role.”
Another Problem:

How do we equip educators to build reciprocal relationships with families?
Our Methodology
(What did we do?)
Our Family Engagement Framework

- Partner with Families in Decision-Making and Goal Setting
- Communicate Effectively with Parents and Caregivers
- Create Learning Activities for Home and Community
- Build Reciprocal Relationships with Families
Program Structure

- Partner with Families in Decision-Making and Goal Setting
- Create Learning Activities for Home and Community
- Communicate Effectively with Parents and Caregivers
- Build Reciprocal Relationships with Families
- Math Lending Libraries
- Teacher workshops
- Family Math Nights
- Teacher workshops
Experience 1:
A Strengths-Based Approach
Experience 2: Charting Communication
One-Way Communication

One-way communication is initiated by either the school or parents to share information without anticipating a response.

Two-Way Communication

Two-way communication occurs when teachers and parents dialogue together.
email
class blog
parent-teacher conferences
phone calls
One-Way Communication

- Newsletters
- Flyers
- Email
- Phone calls
- Robo calls
- IEP notices
- Compliance letters
- HW packets
- LSC meetings
- BAC meetings
- School handbook
- CPS board meetings

Two-Way Communication

- Initiated by school or teacher
- Lots of types
- Class dojo, photos, comments, and messages
- Email
- Phone calls
- PT conferences
- IEP, 504 meetings
- After school canvas
- R.E.D. Read Every Day folder w/ log + comments
- LSC meetings
- BAC meetings
- Communication folder
- School events (social, vs/ Movie Night)
- Family feedback on projects

Dead end? Ø-way

Teachers control 1 or 2-way
Family Math Nights

RAMONA ADD PICTURES
Math Lending Libraries
Outcomes & Significance
(What did we learn?)
Lessons Learned
Reflect

(How does this apply to you?)
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Thank you!