



Parent Involvement Matters!




# Parent Involvement

**Parental** or family **involvement in early childhood education** is a term used to involve families in their child's **early education** and form a strong partnership with their child care provider. This helps to make a significant positive impact on the child's growth and **development**.

# Activity

- How do you define “Parent Involvement”?
- How is it different from “Parent Engagement”?



Parent engagement can be defined as parents, school staff, physicians, nurses, social workers, friends, family members, brothers, sisters, etc. working together to support and improve the learning, development, and health of children and adolescents.



<https://youtu.be/Myv5mexPL3w?list=PLgCsQzHeoHpUyad1-oBgEa3VMktNvND4n>



## Activity:

Have participants brainstorm about how the approach of helping all families would help the families we serve.

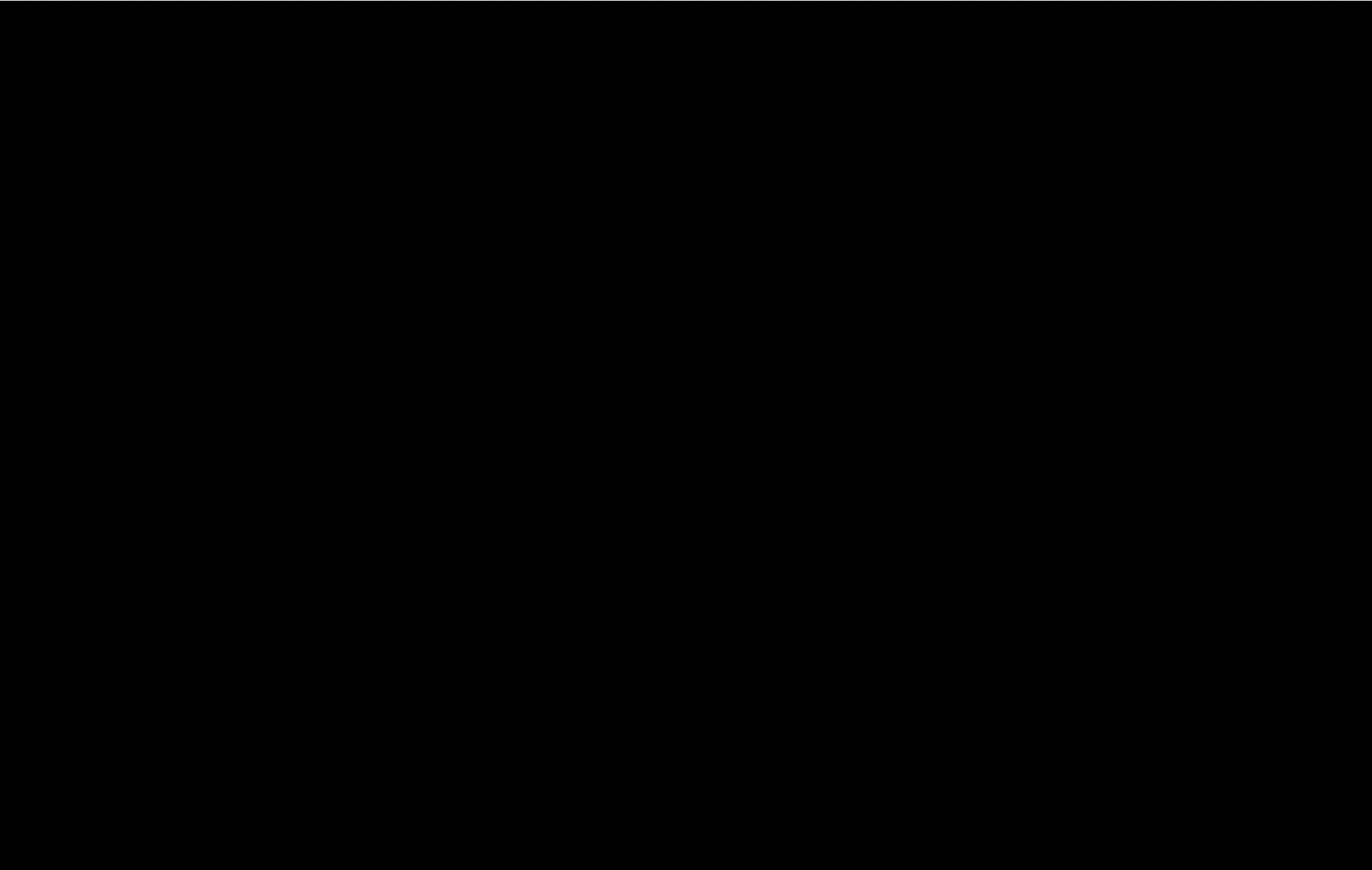
## Simple Rules for Successful Engagement

1. **U**nderstanding brain and child development.  
(Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development)
2. **C**ommunicating with parents.  
(Parental Resilience)
3. **C**ollaborating with the community.  
(Concrete Support)
4. **E**ncouraging parents to be part of decision making.  
(Social and Emotional Well Being of Children)
5. **S**ocial Connections  
Providing a variety of volunteer opportunities.
6. **S**upport Parents



## Activity:

What is the impact of parent involvement on children's development?  
(List 3 reasons)

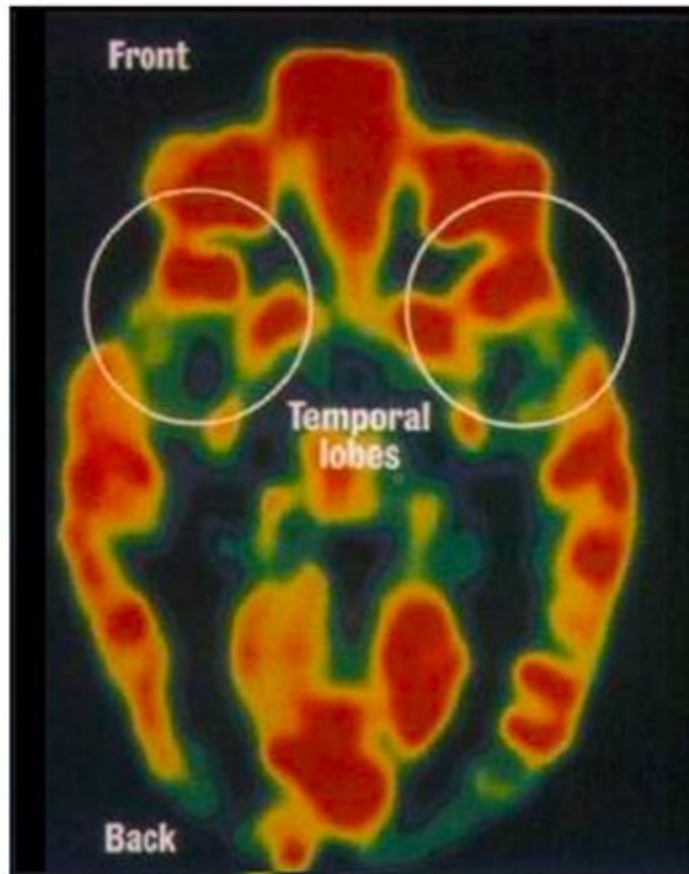




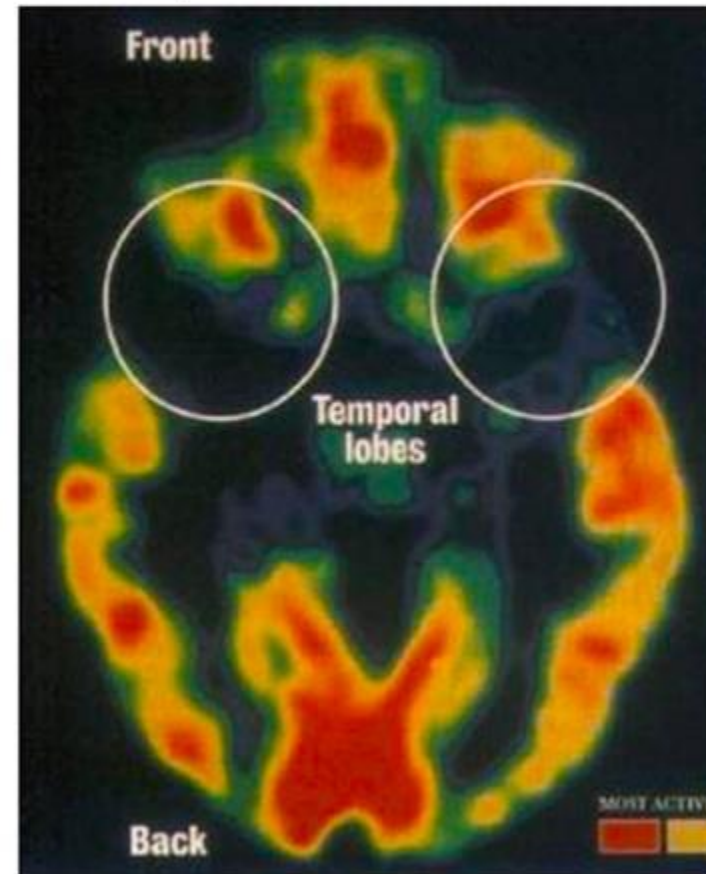
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## Brain Scan: Effects of Toxic Stress

Typically Developing Brain



Brain of Child Exposed to Neglect, Trauma, and Abuse



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# The 5 R's of Healthy Brain Development



- 1. Relationships***
- 2. Responsive interactions***
- 3. Respect***
- 4. Routines***
- 5. Repetition***



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## Relationships



**Warm, loving, secure attachment relationships give children the foundation they need for healthy development.**



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# Responsive Interactions



- Caregiver follows the child's lead.
- Sensitive, back-and-forth interactions.
- Adult tunes in to the child.



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## Serve and Return





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## Video: “Still Face” Experiment



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# Respect



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- **Treating all children as valuable individuals.**
- **Teach and guide, not punish and shame.**
- **Empathy.**
- **Understand misbehavior.**
- **Provide understanding and support.**



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# Routines



- **Safety and security.**
- **Calms bottom functions.**
- **Allows top functions.**



## Repetition




Set realistic expectations based on brain development.



Be aware that the experiences we provide are building brain architecture.



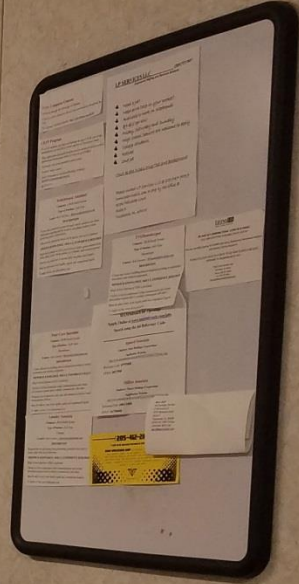
Provide positive relationships and supportive, enriching environments.



Understand the importance of being an  
asset to the classroom.



AL Plication









Alabama Partnership for Children

<https://alabamapartnershipforchildren.org>

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Strengthening Families; Help Me Grow; TEACH; Reach Out and Read; Healthy Eating; First Five; Learn the Signs. Act Early. and Alabama Parent Leadership Network.