

Community Café

CHANGING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN
THROUGH CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

Cafes Comunitarios

CAMBIANDO LA VIDA DE LOS NIÑOS
POR MEDIO DE CONVERSACIONES IMPORTANTES



The Community Café Approach in Early Childhood Systems

Parents Partnering with Communities & Organizations to Strengthen Families

Vision

Collective wisdom based on collective wisdom, with and in human systems, that fosters equality, respect and inclusion

Knowledge Base

Appreciative Inquiry

Strengthening Families Protective Factor Framework

World Café Principles of Hosting

Benefits for Families, Early Childhood Networks, Systems and Centers:

Improved parent/staff relationships

Increased information sharing

Increased parent voice and leadership

Greater family involvement

Parents as partners in formal service systems

Increased community partnerships to strengthen families

“The results (of implementing Community Cafés) showed that one of the most common themes found among the clusters is social connections and community... Social connections can help moderate the negative effects of economic, neighborhood, and parenting stress (Barnett, 2008; Kotchik et al., 2005; White et al., 2009).” (Strengthening Families through Community Cafés: An Evaluation Study, University of Florida 2011)

Transformative Technical Assistance

Community Café Approach implementation and on-going support to ensure success

Organizational capacity building to strengthen families using Appreciative Inquiry

Helping systems and early learning centers to partner with families

Helping systems and early learning centers to increase parent participation and involvement with marginalized populations

Helping teams to build networks, public will and involvement in early learning

Community Café conversations are planned and hosted by parents in their own community or early learning environment. Parent hosts design invitation strategies and conversation topics. Action plans result from collective knowledge and builds on existing strengths and successes. Group-building traditions, customs, visuals, foods and music from the cultures represented in each café help to ensure cultural relevance. Meaningful relationships develop as parents and community partners participate as equals in a series of conversations that promote reciprocity.

Community Café Collaborative

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