

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

Parents Partnering with Communities & Organizations to Strengthen Families

Three Legs of the Approach

The Community Café approach sparks leadership to build the relationships needed to strengthen families. Parents host Community Café conversations with the support of community partners. Hosts learn some hosting techniques, have relationships with café participants and knowledge of how to build on the assets of their neighborhood. 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. This approach can be integrated into any strengthening families activity or community setting. There are three critical components to this approach:

☀ Appreciative Inquiry-The 4D's

Community Café are a series of iterative conversations. Examples of conversations are: What is the group's desired change? (Dream) What has worked well in the past? (Design) What more do we need to learn? (Discover) How do I contribute and what must we do together? (Deliver)



☀ World Café Principles of Hosting

Bridging and bonding social capital is built when conversations are meaningful. Every conversation stays true to certain principles of hosting. The World Café Principles of hosting are:

- 1) Set the context
- 2) Create hospitable space
- 3) Explore questions that matter
- 4) Encourage everyone's contribution
- 5) Connect diverse perspectives
- 6) Listen together for patterns & insights
- 7) Share collective discoveries

(www.theworldcafe.org)

☀ Strengthening Families

All conversations related to the research based, protective factor framework published by the Center for the Study of Social Policy which recognizes that parental resiliency, adequate knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete support in times of need, social connections and the social and emotional development of children are necessary for a child to thrive. When planning your café purpose and questions, ask yourselves, "How does this conversation relate to the Protective Factor Framework?"