

NEWSLETTER

Hawai'i Statewide Family Engagement Center, May 2020

[Accessible Version](#)



Thank you and Acknowledgement

This newsletter is based on a program and materials developed under a grant from the US Department of Education - The Hawaii Statewide Family Engagement Center (U310A180056) - Dr. Chuan Chinn, PI, Center on Disability Studies, College of Education, University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Funding agencies endorsement of the ideas expressed in this website should not be inferred.

[HFEC Website](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

**Communication with Parents:
How a phone call to families can
make a difference! 2**

**Building Powerful Partnerships
with Families: 2**

Communication Tools: 3

**Six Process Conditions Working
with Cohort 1 (Kaua'i): 4 - 5**

Partnership Highlight: INPEACE: 6

Reflection Questions: 6

Resources: 7 - 9

Communication with Parents: How a phone call to families can make a difference!



A simple thing like reaching out to parents and connecting with them in this challenging time provides an opportunity to forge lasting relationships. It doesn't require any complex training - just a good heart and willingness to listen. A phone call home really makes a difference! Below are tips for overcoming obstacles to connect with families and parents:

- Introduce yourself by your first name, it helps to ease tension
- Begin the conversation with a positive
- Describe only actions- avoid labeling
- Ask questions to seek what ways they need support
- Call with good news to build trust, rapport and as a great morale booster
- Send texts and emails to keep in communication, weekly updates can go a long way with families
- Take one step at a time, make the first calls home and continue to build a relationship with family members to support their child throughout the school year



Source: Alber, R. (2017, August 24). A Phone Call Home Makes All the Difference. Retrieved from [Edutopia: A Phone Call Home Makes All the Difference](#).

Building Powerful Partnerships with Families



This free [webinar series](#) from Dr. Karen Mapp will help school practitioners partner with families to support at-home learning, and sustain the development and growth of children during this time. The next webinar in this series titled “Family Engagement Phone Calls” will provide valuable insights and practical tools to build powerful partnerships with families and students in your community. This webinar will be available on our website shortly. [Register](#) for the final webinar in this series, hosted on Wednesday, May 13 at 9am HST and the topic is “Connecting with Families with Special Needs Children. If you are not available to attend the webinar live, all recorded webinars are available on the [HFEC website](#). Now available are the recordings from webinar 1 “Building Partnerships with Families- Where do we start?” and webinar 2 “Virtual Meetings, Gatherings and Publishing Parties.”

Communication Tools

Communication tools are an amazing way to help the community organizations, schools and teachers connect with students and their families. There have been new applications (Apps) and resources that have helped to keep students connected to their classroom, teachers and lessons. This has helped families continue to learn while we transition to staying at home to protect our loved ones. In Hawai'i , teachers have been using Google Classroom, ClassDojo, as well as the school's websites. Some schools now provide a counselor corner where students can connect with their school's counselor and find resources and support online! Did you know, there are applications that do not require internet connection for text messages with important updates and information to alert families? [Possip](#) is one example, that does not require internet connection, to send text messages to cell phones to alert families of updates and information. PCNCs on Big Island have been using the app to connect with families. Download Purposity and follow Hawai'i Public Schools.



Purposity App

[DOE Flyer: Purposity App](#)

Locally, the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EH CY) have been making strides in their efforts to support communities in need. They are reaching out to families to find out what they need and have partnered with local community organizations to get supplies out through drivers and liaisons across the state. They have been actively using the [Purposity app](#) which has been great at helping community members support those in need. Now featured on [The Today Show](#), this app works to connect communities so neighbors can see the needs and help fill them.

EVERY DAY THERE'S A KID IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WHO NEEDS YOUR HELP.

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

DOWNLOAD PURPOSITY AND FOLLOW HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 DOWNLOAD THE **PURPOSITY** APP.
SEARCH FOR PURPOSITY OR VISIT [PURPOSITY.COM](#)

2 FOLLOW **HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOLS** AND TURN ON NOTIFICATIONS.

3 PICK AN INSPIRING STORY TO **FULLFILL A NEED.**

IT'S EASY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MAHALO FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Six Process Conditions Working with Cohort 1 (Kaua'i)

The Hawai'i Family Engagement Center had the pleasure of partnering with Kauai Community College and 6 public schools in the Kaua'i District. Scholastic's Family and Community Engagement team facilitated three full-day training sessions on the best practices and strategies for family engagement a school-wide approach. Each school created an action team which consists of five foundational members: an administrator, teacher, parent, and two additional representatives.



Additional members included either a member from the community, school staff, or parent. The training series focused on Dr. Karen Mapp's dual capacity-building framework. At the end of the training sessions, each school team collaborated to re-create and re-tool a school event applying the family engagement strategies. In order for an event to truly encompass the full range of family engagement, it must include the 6 Process Conditions:

- | | | | | | |
|----------|---|----------|---|----------|---|
| 1 | Relational:
Built on mutual
trust | 2 | Linked to
learning and
development | 3 | Asset-based:
Recognize
community
strengths |
| 4 | Culturally
responsive and
respectful | 5 | Collaborative | 6 | Interactive |

Each action team used school data to prioritize areas where they would like to enhance students' learning. They re-designed their school events with these focuses in mind ensuring new skills and knowledge are transferred to all members of the family.

Waimea HS, Kapa'a HS and Kapa'a Middle successfully re-tooled a school event immediately following the training. The other participating schools plan to implement their re-tooled events in the near future.



Strategies and tips that the participants shared included:

- Empowering families to support student comprehension of science related text with a **science and technology family event**
- Helping families understand how to have vocabulary rich conversations with their children through a **literacy night**
- Recommending ways for parents to create a focused environment and time to support their child's reading practice
- Empowering families to support students with literacy comprehension using non-fiction articles

Overall takeaways about successful family engagement that participants shared:

- The buy-in from teachers and all school faculty is very important to the partnership to improve student success
- Establish communication with families; parents and teachers often share similar concerns
- Family engagement is a **partnership** and it is a **solution**

Following the success of the training sessions, we are continuing to support the Kauai cohort through monthly webinars and technical assistance. Stay tuned for more information on our upcoming Cohort in Hawai'i county!

Partnership Highlight

HFEC has partnered with [INPEACE's](#) Ho'oulu Waiwai program to provide culturally relevant financial workshops to educate individuals and families on personal money management concepts, to include the creation of a spending plan, strategies for saving, borrowing money wisely, and protecting personal finances. The Financial Kai workshop series provides the basic knowledge necessary to empower people to become financially responsible. INPEACE also provides personalized one-on-one coaching to help build family assets. Visit the [INPEACE Ho'oulu Waiwai Eventbrite page](#) to sign up for a workshop! You can also call (808) 696-5556 or email saydeep@inpeace.org.



Reflection Question

During times of crisis and hardships, many people are able to show their resiliency and support.

What are some acts of kindness that have helped you get through the current situation?

Be kind
whenever
possible. It is
always possible.

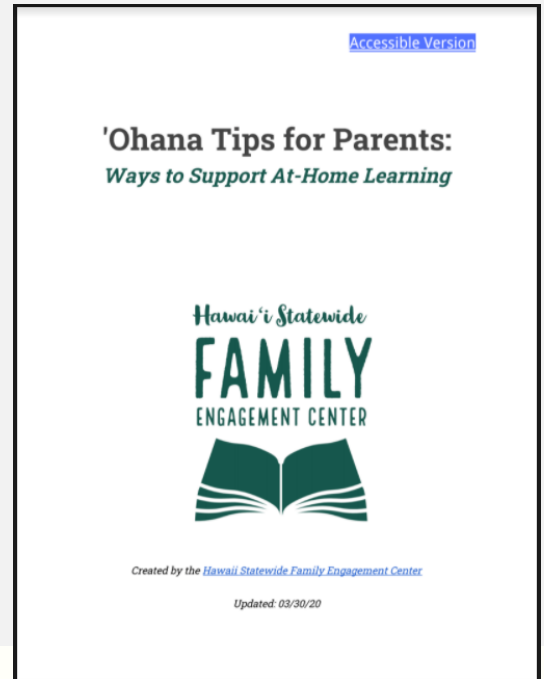


Connect with [HFEC](#) (hfec@hawaii.edu) now with your discussion question responses and your answer may be anonymously shared in our next newsletter!

Resources

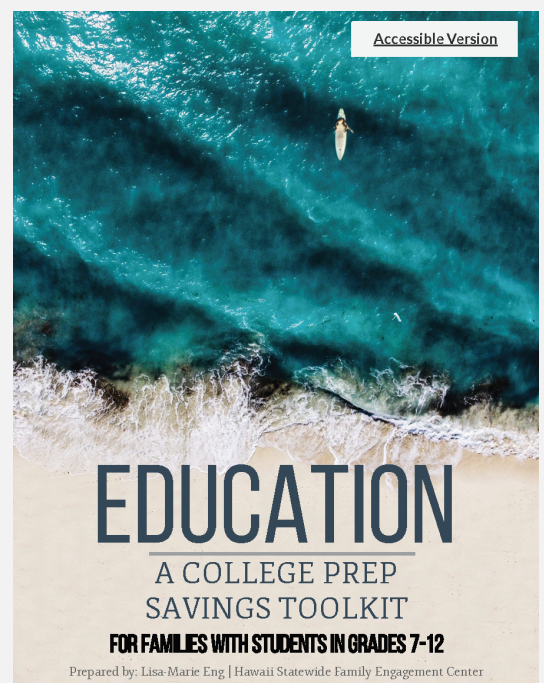
'Ohana Tips for Parents: Ways to Support At-Home Learning

As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus), student learning has shifted from in-classroom to at-home learning. Families, use the [At-Home Learning Guide](#) to help you and your child be ready to learn at home. You'll find tips to get you set up for at home learning, literacy & reading, and homework. It also has resources for online learning. Teachers, please share it with your students and their families. What works for your 'ohana? Tag us (@hiSFEC) on Twitter with your at-home learning tips!



Education A College Prep Savings Toolkit for Families with Students in Grades 7-12

The [College Prep Savings Toolkit](#) is an amazing resource for families to start with their children even in middle school! This useful guide has information about financial aid, applying for loans, grants, scholarships, tips for savings and so much more. It is colorful, easy to read and provides helpful links for questions and to find out more information straight from the source. Families, use this Financial Literacy Toolkit with your 'ohana to create a savings plan for your 'ohana's college education goals. You'll find helpful cost information about the ACT and SAT, learn about how Federal Financial Aid can help you pay for college, and gain different money savings strategies you can use.



Teachers, please share it with your students and their 'ohana!

HFEC: COVID-19 Resources

The [Hawai'i Statewide Family Engagement Center](#) has a list of resources to support families during this time, including 24/7 help phone lines, local food and child care resources and helpful links. For information on benefits, including resources for people with disabilities, non-profit and small business support, how to apply for health insurance, financial assistance, check out the [COVID-19 Resources](#) page now! Also included are social and emotional wellbeing fact sheets, mindfulness, meditation & yoga apps and more! If you would like more information or want to see additional resources added to our list, [contact us](mailto:hfec@hawaii.edu) at hfec@hawaii.edu.

[National Alliance for Family Engagement](#)

What stands between current public thinking and widespread adoption of family engagement as a core educational strategy is better communication. NAFSCE is re-framing the conversation around family engagement. This short video talks about changing how we talk about family engagement, download the [toolkit](#) to learn how to reframe your communications with online tools. What is included? Three Reasons why re-framing the conversation matters, Common communication errors, recommendations stemming from research with interactive examples, framing cheat sheets, research findings and frequently asked questions.

Family engagement is so much more than you think.



The Four 'I's of Family Engagement created by the PTA

The Four 'I's of transformative family engagement outline how your PTA can become more inclusive, individualized, integrated and impactful in its approach to family engagement:

- **Inclusive**- embrace and value diverse perspectives
- **Individualized**- meet the unique needs of every family and child
- **Integrated**- connect and align the efforts with the broader educational system
- **Impactful**- empower families to support their children's success.

4 Principles of Transformative Family Engagement

INCLUSIVE

Embracing and valuing diverse perspectives.



INDIVIDUALIZED

Meeting the unique needs of every family and child.



INTEGRATED

Connecting and aligning with the educational system.



IMPACTFUL

Empowering families to support their child's success.



Source: Four Parts of Family Engagement - Center for Family Engagement. (n.d.). Retrieved from [PTA - Four Parts of Family Engagement](#).