



Description:  
 Family Engagement: Collaborating with Families of Students with Disabilities

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Description:  
 Friends, my name is Holly Brienza.

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Description:  
 I'm a teacher at Elmwood Middle School,

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Description:  
 and I'm here today to address a topic near-and-dear to my educator's heart:

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Description:  
 Families

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Description:

You know, the tall people you occasionally see on parent-teacher nights or in the seats at a school play?

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Description:

Or maybe you don't see them.

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Description:

More likely yet, you see the same families all the time.

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Description:

You know the ones, on-hand and ready to help at every school function?

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Description:

But there are lots of other families out there that you might not see as often,

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11.

Description:

such as those with children with disabilities.

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12.

Description:

I've been thinking a lot lately about what we might do as teachers to better engage with these families,

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13.

Description:

especially after a parent cancelled an IEP meeting at the last minute.

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14.

Description:

Her child, who has a disability, had an unexpected health crisis.

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15.

Description:

After speaking with her, I realized I hadn't put much thought into the challenges she might be facing,

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16.

Description:  
and it got me wondering what else I might not know about my parents' circumstances, particularly those whose children have disabilities.

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17.

Description:  
Maybe some of them work multiple jobs and have limited time to be engaged with the school.

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18.

Description:  
Or maybe they're overwhelmed by other stressors or responsibilities related to their child's disability.

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19.

Description:  
Or it could be they haven't had many positive experiences associated with their child's education.

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20.

Description:  
It's a lot to think about, but think about it we must.

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21.  Our Challenge

Description:  
In fact, let's make it our Challenge

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22.  What do educators need to understand about families of children with disabilities?


Description:  
What do educators need to understand about families of children with disabilities?

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23.  What do educators need to understand about families of children with disabilities?  
  
How can educators engage these families?

Description:  
How can educators engage these families?

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24.  For more open educational resources (OERs) about evidence-based instructional and behavioral practices, visit:  
  
iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu  
or  
iriscenter.com

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