**Parent-Teacher Partnerships for Student Success**

**Module 2: Respect and Communication**

**Communication Activities**

\*SCHOOL TO HOME

* Principals and teachers must support parent involvement by
* Making parent involvement a priority.
* Recognizing and removing barriers to parent involvement.
* Sharing decision-making power with parents and community members.
* Working to understand class and cultural differences.(pta.org; Turnbull et al.)
* Resource: <http://www.tolerance.org/>

Honor Cultural Diversity

* + Pay attention to differences in cultural values
	+ Learn by talking to families, colleagues
	+ Tie content of the curriculum to skills and knowledge that are valued in the students’ cultures
	+ Incorporate projects that allow students to reflect on their culture
	+ Determine the family’s priorities
	+ Strive for a “common ground”
	+ Recognize disabilities as another form of diversity
	+ Use "teachable moments" from classroom situations

Affirm Strengths

* + Parents like to hear their children praised
	+ Inform parents without burdening them with finding solutions
	+ Affirm strength of family as well as student

Treat Students and Families with Dignity

* + Avoid condescension
	+ Consider cultural differences
	+ Do not label as "minority", non-English speaking, etc.

Attend IEP meetings and be present the whole time--shows respect for parents’ time

\*Home to School

* Write thank you letters ([www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org))
* Communicate esteem for staff through words and actions
* Take cultural values and personal preferences of teacher into account - share yours with staff
* Focus on strengths and positives about your child and family
* Regard teacher as partner in helping your child

**RESOURCES:**

*Beyond the Bake Sale*, by A.T. Henderson et al., 2007 by The New Press.

*Families, Professionals, and Exceptionality, Seventh Edition*, by A. Turnbull et al, 2015 by Pearson Education, Inc.

S*chool, Family, and Community Partnerships*, *Third Edition*, by J. L. Epstein et al., 2009 by Corwin Press.

*What Successful Schools Do To Involve Families: 55 Partnership Strategies*, by N.A. Glasgow & P.J. Whitney, 2009 by Corwin Press.

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