

66%

of children have experienced a traumatic event by the time they turn 16



RESEARCH SHOWS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IS CRITICAL IN HELPING CHILDREN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED TRAUMA

Trauma can make children and families less likely to trust schools and authority figures and less likely to fully participate in programs created to support their trauma recovery. By knowing these principles and incorporating these practices into your family engagement strategies, you can improve outcomes for children.

PRINCIPLES

1

Safety

Make sure children and families feel physically and psychologically safe

2

Trust

Be as honest as possible. Cultivate a trusting relationship

3

Peer Support

Encourage families to seek out others in their community with similar experiences

4

Collaboration

Everyone has a role to play. Let families know they are not facing this situation alone

5

Empowerment

Bring families into the decision making process as much as possible

6

Context

Seek to understand and encourage the family's healing process

PRACTICES

1

Be Calm

Take a breath and make sure you are calm before contacting families

2

Be a Listener

Families are experts on themselves. Listen to what they have to say first!

3

Be Positive

Recognize and celebrate families' strengths! Only focusing on the negatives can be re-traumatizing

4

Be Honest

Share information openly and willingly with families

5

Be Resourceful

Be prepared to connect families to resources for themselves and their child