

Community Café'
SFTI
Boise, Idaho
March 17, 2009

Question: What are the ways in which we form and foster critical connections for partnership?

Responses:

- Taking time to appreciate someone else's ideas and thoughts
- Being flexible
- Show you are interested
- Forming trust
- Being open-minded
- Seeing value in other's relationships and expectations
- Making connections by getting to know others
- Gaining new perspective—there is always something you did not think of
- Identifying a goal
- Team with committees/teams with like goals
- Fostering a common goal
- Make regular communication patterns a goal
- Being willing to take initiative
- Being committed
- Respect others; individual strengths brought to the table
- Stay professional
- We ask; we invite
- Shared goals and experiences
- Shared love
- Everyone included
- Everyone should benefit—no one should have more power than anyone else
- Appreciate the interests and values of others
- Avoid stereotyping
- Build trust with one another
- Believe that everyone has the potential to succeed
- Be eclectic in knowledge
- Maximize human capital
- Use the economy to get creative in finding solutions
- Willing to both take and give control
- Learn how to be proactive rather than reactive
- Informing like-minded organizations about each other's existence/overlap in mission statements
- Continued education
- Team up with school districts, parents, Head Start
- Be aware of who you can partner with

- Respect differences
- Build on the individual identities—we each have a different piece of a common goal
- Bring humility to the partnership
- We all have a part, but no part is more important than another
- Share failures and challenges—problem solve to break down barriers
- Accept who you are and be willing to share
- Value what others bring
- Listen with your eyes, ears and heart
- Let go of personal baggage so that you can listen better
- Share collective wisdom
- Cut losses and think out of the box
- Teach children and parents critical thinking skills
- Reconnect—human connection is most important in terms of teaching and connection
- Look back as well as forward
- Everyone desires respect, which requires withheld judgment and actively listening with partners
- Nurturing a partnership between parents and foster parents
- Facilitating family centered meetings
- Put child at center of issue
- Include parents in all decisions
- Allow parents to come up with own solutions to challenges

Question: What radical possibilities for change are drawing us to our positive future?

Responses:

- My children
- Networking
- One person can make a difference
- Addressing issues
- Bringing your best each day
- Self improvement, care, education
- Breaking down barriers
- All professionals join together for “big picture”—the care of children
- More collaboration
- Economic downturn might force us to return to simpler times—back to basics
- Hope
- Things are better, problems addressed
- Brain research has helped us in our work
- Head Start should become lead organization in training/modeling for child care and Pre-K
- New Obama administration

- IdahoSTARS Quality Rating & Improvement
- Parent education for all new parents
- Internet education opportunities
- Preschool for all
- Funding for prevention
- Brighter futures for Idaho's children
- Basic health and safety
- Direct resource help before it is needed
- Relationships that are flexible, honest, open-minded and problem solving
- Positive legislation
- Cities and communities caring about their children and families
- Continued family strengthening strategies through high school
- No shame in parent education
- Schools partnering with parents
- Families getting back to basics
- Individualized education
- Families connected to services
- Universal health care
- Breaking down barriers of race, age, and national origin
- Empowered families
- Growing public awareness of the importance of early childhood
- Dream big
- Parents included at every level
- Faith-based solutions and partnerships
- Child care providers viewed as professionals
- Everyone has a place at the table
- Everyone working together to “shade and protect” our children (giant tree with many branches)
- All connections are important
- Collaboration instead of competition
- Parent involvement and leadership at all levels
- Redefine “family”
- Cross agency cooperation
- Community leadership
- Localization of services and resources
- Written partnership agreements
- Partnership components built into programs
- More acceptance and resources for those with disabilities
- Change in division of labor
- Early childhood education for high school students
- Inclusion

The Harvest: What will Idaho's social movement to strengthen families and prevent child abuse look like?

Responses:

- Agencies working together—advocating as one
- Policy change
- Step forward as a neighbor and community to be a part of a child's life
- Be the connector
- Everyone has a place at the table
- Barriers being broken down
- Use of the language of possibilities
- A well defined, early childhood professional work force that provides quality practices for kids and families
- All child care staff/programs are trained in Strengthening Families Curriculum
- Universal pre-K that is modeled after Head Start
- Nurturing, happy childhoods
- Coming together from all backgrounds for one purpose
- Protective factors built into every family
- Impatient Patience
- A big, extended family dinner
- Community coming together
- Neighborhoods have the resources and support that they need
- Strength based practices with families