



Tips to Build and Sustain Parent Leadership

Created by the FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council in celebration of Parent Leadership Month 2015

The FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council invites you to celebrate Parent Leadership Month throughout February. Each individual PAC member offers their own personal insight and tips to help you encourage parents in your programs and communities to grow in their personal leadership journey.

Dawn Patzer

Build relationships with parents they want to mold into leaders. I believe practitioners have to see something in the parent that makes them think the parent will make a great leader. Then, build a relationship with the parent and provide opportunities for learning and confidence building. Parents will then succeed as leaders.

Eliza Cooper

Give newly identified parent leaders the same orientation that you give to a new paid employee, so that the parent leader understands the scope of the organization, its mission and goals. Then, develop a positive working relationship coupled with training.

Brooke Hoffenbauer

Laugh with me, **Cry** with me, **Share** stories together, **Give** what you can to eliminate the stressors that keep me from coming (child care, transportation, gratitude stipend), **Teach** me the jargon, **Prepare** me for what to expect, **Introduce** me to others, **Hear** my voice and **create space** for me to share, **Tell** me how it helped create positive change for my family and other families. **Welcome** my thoughts and **Partner** with me as we work together to help create a STRONG community for my family and the families in my neighborhood and beyond. **Together** we create a community that supports the well being of FAMILIES.

Art Hernandez

Create a list of all the acronyms your organization uses and define them and give them to the parent leaders you recruit.

Jessica Diel

Practitioners can help parent leaders by making them feel important and making them feel as though they are actually making a difference. For example, get their input on an important decision. Also, give them the tools and support necessary in order for them to be involved such as providing child care, transportation and/or funding for them to be able to go or do what is necessary.

Sam Fuhrmann

Utilize the tools developed by FRIENDS NRC CBCAP to aid in developing parent leadership in your programs, especially the assessment tools that will help you identify your strengths as well as areas that need developing.