

Motivation Monday, May 11, 2020

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." – Coretta Scott King

The Family Support Team recognizes that during these trying times it is important to assist families with HOPE. Many of us have learned about the lasting impact that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can have on children. The language of [Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences \(HOPE\)](#), developed and promoted by a team from the Center for Community-Engaged Medicine at Tufts Medical Center, "is a new way of seeing and talking about experiences that support children's growth and development into healthy, resilient adults." It uses a positive lens to consider how positive experiences can help to protect children from adverse experiences and even become the foundation for healing.

HOPE reminds us that "even in the face of adversity, key positive experiences help us heal." The [four building blocks](#) that form the foundation for positive experiences include relationships, environment, engagement, and social and emotional development. Like the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors, these building blocks are protective and promotive – they act as buffers *and* actively promote well-being. [Sege and Harper Browne](#) identify the connection between caregiver and child as guiding principle of HOPE, stating "child and parent health and well-being are inextricably linked. Thus, positive experiences must promote child health, parent health, and a healthy parent–child relationship." Family support professionals can partner with caregivers to create environments where children benefit from the positive experiences described in each building block.

The Family Support Team will share resources for HOPE and the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors through the continuation of *Motivation Mondays!*

This week, the Family Support Team is focusing on Engagement.

Why This Building Block Matters

All of us, including children, benefit from feeling connected to a community. When we are positively engaged with institutions, our neighborhoods, our culture, and other collective groups we feel valued. By having meaningful ways to contribute we feel a part of something bigger than ourselves and optimistic about our ability to influence the future. During this time of uncertainty during COVID-19, families are stepping up to support one another – forging a sense of connectedness to their local communities and the world. [In his recent blog](#), Dr. Robert Sege points out that children have contributed to the effort to flatten the curve during the pandemic by staying home during the pandemic. This sacrifice for the greater good is a part of civic engagement.

Interested in Learning More? Related Resources

- The HOPE team developed worksheets that will help [family support professionals](#) and [programs](#) to incorporate these concepts into their work.
- Check out The ACES Connection's mini-blog on [Engagement](#).
- Scholastic offers this [list of activities](#) that families can do to give back – including some you can do right from your kitchen table!

- Looking for more service ideas for youth and families? Check out Youth Service America's [ideas to give back during COVID-19](#).
- Communities are made up of families! Be sure everyone counts – remind them to complete the [2020 Census](#).
- One way adults make their voices heard is through voting. The deadline to register to vote in the June 2, 2020 primary election. Find out more from [Votes PA](#).
- [The Center for Family Engagement](#) is a National PTA® Initiative that promotes caregiver engagement in children's education. The [Four I's of Transformative Engagement](#), the podcast [Notes from the Backpack](#), and [Tackling COVID-19 Together](#) are just a few of the great resources you can find on this website.
- The National Center for Families Learning has a robust [resources section](#) to help programs consider how they can intentionally engage families in their child's education.

Our Communities' Response

CTF grantee [United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants \(USCRI\) in Erie](#) is promoting caregiver engagement in their child's learning and supporting families with concrete support in times of need by connecting families with resources in order for their children to be able to engage in online learning. They have helped families acquire Chromebooks and get internet connections to use for their Google Classroom assignments. Interpreters are available to explain to families how to access online learning.

Interested in sharing something positive from your community? Please send a message to your designated Family Support Consultant or Technical Assistance Specialist!

Social Media

Thinking about using social media to engage families? The Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center offers a set of [15 positive social media messages](#) to support families in uncertain times. While there also check out their guide [Using Social Media to Engage Families](#).

Special Thanks

The Office of Child Development and Early Learning would like to thank Early Intervention Technical Assistance and the Center for Schools and Communities for their support in this messaging.

Past Messages

Looking for previous Motivational Monday messages? Please visit the Pennsylvania Family Support Programs website [here](#) or the Pennsylvania Strengthening Families website [here](#). Please note that ChildLine is still available 24/7 to anyone wishing to report child abuse and general child well-being concerns at **1-800-932-0313** and at www.KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov.

Accessing support during this unprecedented time has gotten a little easier with the support of The Department of Human Services (DHS) [newly developed Support & Referral Helpline](#) at 1-855-284-2494. For TTY, dial 724-631-5600.