

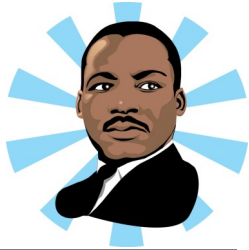


DIRECTOR'S CORNER

>>> JANUARY 2018

An effective family engagement system builds connections between home and school and is an essential component to meeting the needs of each child in your program.

TIP#1: MLK DAY



With Martin Luther King Jr day on **Monday, January 15** it is important to teach children about Martin Luther King Jr not only this month but year-round. We teach how one man, full of determination, made a change in the world. We teach that everyone, in their own way, can make a difference - however small, for good (or bad). We teach that it is possible, but not easy, to move mountains in a peaceful way.



TIP#2: HANDBOOKS

Not just employee handbooks but center handbooks need updated yearly. If in Ohio, ODJFS implemented a new list of items which need to be addressed in the center handbook. This is important in order to keep families informed of changes which have occurred with licensing. It also will provide contact information for families to have if they would like more information about the updated licensing rules. Ask your licensing specialist for more information. See these documents [here](#) and [here](#).

TIP#3: TECHNOLOGY



It is important to look at your program's policies and how they are communicated with families. Families also need to know the policies are written in order to protect and explain how this is done. For example, Facebook is a very popular social media outlet but center's have the responsibility of protecting the privacy of the children and families. How will the center participate and still protect their privacy? Maybe creating a private Facebook page. This needs updated in the policies and handbook. Check out this [article](#) on questions to consider when using technology in your center.



TIP#4: WHAT KIND OF LEADER ARE YOU?

Check out this [article](#) on leadership. Use this as inspiration for your own New Year's resolutions goals for yourself and overall program improvement. Read this article for educators: [The Power of the Positive Educator](#) and share with your staff. Positive educators have the power to transform lives and inspire young minds to believe they can and will change the world.

TIP#5: CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM



Chronic absenteeism in preschool is high, with a national average of 10%. That number goes up when we focus on children at-risk. Data from our state pilot pre-k projects show that approximately 30% of children are chronically absent. Research tells us that children who miss more than 10% of school days (which averages out to only 2 days per month) are less ready for kindergarten and do less well on literacy and math in elementary school. Furthermore, they are more likely to continue to be chronically absent. For more information, check out this [website](#), an excellent resource for information and tools related to school attendance across grade levels, including early education. As directors, what can we do? View this [toolkit](#) to learn more.



TIP#6: RESOURCE FOR PARENT

New Years resolution to share with parents and staff. Be a healthy role model for children going into the new year 2018. See the [10 tips](#) for setting good examples when it comes to nutrition.