



# DIRECTOR'S CORNER

>>> NOVEMBER 2017

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 NATIONAL KINDNESS DAY: NOVEMBER 13TH

This is an international holiday that encourages everyone to look deep into their hearts to do something nice for their neighbor. Get inspired [here](#). How do you celebrate your families and your staff? Conscious Discipline offers many examples of how to build a school family with the families and staff in your center. Check out examples [here](#).



## TIP#2 CREATING TRADITIONS



November is the month for creating traditions. Think of a way you will create a tradition and foster that school family feeling. Here are some ideas. Hold a food drive for needy families. Offer Apple fritters, apple cider or a Thanksgiving feast where families come in and share in a peaceful lunch and give thanks for the relationships that have been built between families, teachers and the program. Encourage a family event either school wide or encourage each classroom to create their own tradition to share with families.

## TIP#3 NAEYC FAMILIES

Often families are searching for information that is researched based. [Families.naeyc.org](http://Families.naeyc.org) is a great resource that offers articles ranging from assisting children with big emotions all the way to what kinds of foods we should limit for our children.



## TIP#4 TIME FOR PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES



November is a good time for teachers to schedule parent teacher conferences. Conferences are typically thought of as a time for teachers to give families information about their child but it is essential for teachers to also understand the significance of listening to parents and encourage them to share unique knowledge about their child. Collaboration between families and teachers is vital in order to establish ongoing realistic developmental goals.

## TIP#5 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Directors who conducted a communications needs assessment-What did you find out? What is the next step in utilizing this information in communicating with families? What plan will you put into place? Will you create a program newsletter for families or a Facebook page? How will you communicate in a way that is reciprocal and gathers input which impacts program decision making?

