



# DIRECTOR'S CORNER

>>> OCTOBER 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

### PROGRAM SELF-ASSESSMENT

You may want to consider completing a Family Engagement System Self-Evaluation. This will give insight into how effective your program is family engagement and guide you in developing an action plan for improvement. [FESE link](#)



## TIP#2

### CONNECT AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

October is a good time to plan an event where you can meet parents and parents can meet you. Some ideas include: Breakfast/Donuts with the Director, Fall Meet and Greet or host an Open House Event. Focus on communicating in a variety of ways the details surrounding the event. And with any event you plan, always offer food!

## TIP#3

### FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IDEAS FOR OCTOBER

Halloween Costume Exchange: Often families are in need of costumes for their child or children. Consider offering a costume exchange where parents bring in costumes from the past years for parents to borrow. This saves parents the cost of buying a new costume and they will appreciate the convenience of it.



Fall Festival: This is a great opportunity for families and teachers to collaborate in planning the details of the event. This event promotes a time for parents, teachers and children to mingle and have fun together. This builds relationships and creates continuity between home and school.



## TIP#4

### FIRE PREVENTION WEEK: OCTOBER 8-14

The National Fire Protection Agency's theme this year is: "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" Provide lifesaving information for families about fire safety. It simply is not enough for children to practice drills at school. Here are a couple of links to share in your communications with parents as a resource on how to create an escape plan and the importance of it. [Basic Fire Escape Planning](#) [Fire Safety Tips for Kids](#)

## TIP#5

### COMMUNICATION: WHAT THEY REALLY WANT

Don't assume that all families are created equal. Ask your families on how they would like to receive information—then listen and deliver! Conduct a survey to find out. To cover all family types (young, old, grandparents, etc.) you will need to communicate in multiple different channels. But please keep in mind to make communications mobile/smart phone friendly. With communication more is better.

