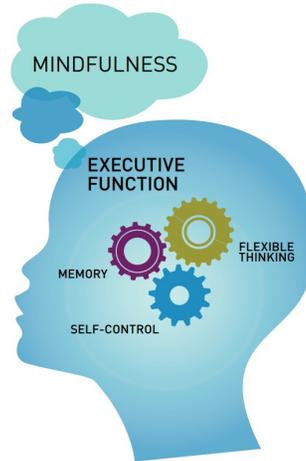


## Family Café Training and Support

Family Cafés are parent-led conversations about topics that are important to raising children today. Adapted from a model developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy at the University of Chicago, informal programs begin with three get-togethers that include a meal and child care. The Family Engagement Collaborative provides training for parents and professionals at schools, organizations and agencies who are interested in forming a Family Café. **Mini grants** are available to fund new Family Cafés.

The Executive Function Think Tank consists of a group of interested persons from schools, social service agencies, colleges and universities who come together monthly to discuss how to better support executive functioning in both children and their families. The group creates and curates materials and other resources, conducts research and recognizes opportunities for children and their families to develop executive functioning skills based on everyday life experiences.



## Family Engagement Interns

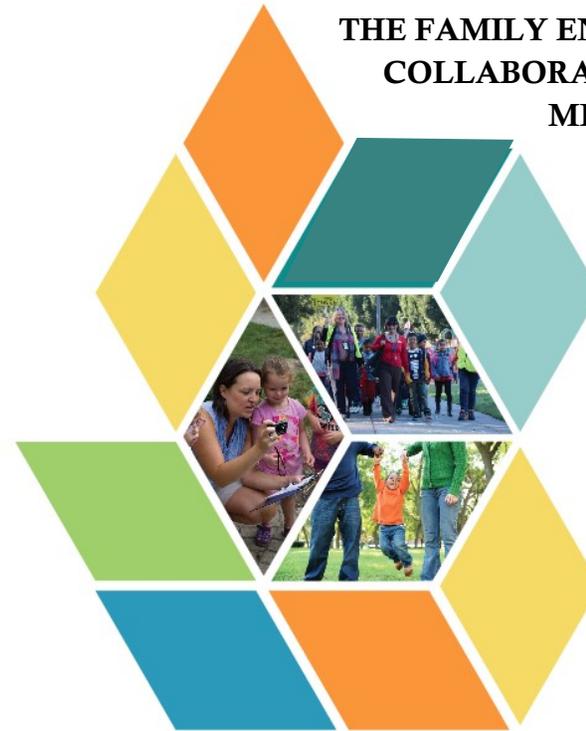
Each September and January schools, organizations and agencies may submit brief proposals to apply for a team of University of Dayton early childhood interns who work with a mentor to plan and implement a family engagement project. The interns are part of the *Collaborating with Families, Professionals and Agencies* course. Proposal forms can be found at [www.familyengagementcollaborative.com](http://www.familyengagementcollaborative.com). Proposals submitted by the deadline are reviewed and then selected by the intern teams. For more information click on the *Interns* button on the website.



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## THE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COLLABORATIVE OF THE MIAMI VALLEY REGION



### SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SUPPORT FAMILIES

#### INSIDE

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Funded by a generous gift from the  
**The Spurlino Foundation**

[www.familyengagementcollaborative.com](http://www.familyengagementcollaborative.com)

## Family Engagement Collaborative

The Family Engagement Collaborative was formed in 2013 as part of the *Ready Families, Ready Children Project* funded by the Better Way Foundation. A joint effort between the University of Dayton's Center for Catholic Education, Center for Early Learning, the Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and ReadySetSoar resulted in a funded project designed to increase family engagement in the kindergarten readiness process. Now funded by the Spurlino Foundation and guided by a 12 member board of directors, the Collaborative Council meets monthly to identify and share strategies, leverage resources and develop opportunities to support family engagement across the many schools, organizations and agencies in the Miami Valley. Anyone can join the online collaborative.

### How to Join

To join the Family Engagement Collaborative distribution list and receive resources go to [www.familyengagementcollaborative.com](http://www.familyengagementcollaborative.com) and sign up to join our mailing list.

### Members of the Collaborative Council

- ◇ 4C for Children
- ◇ Adventure Central
- ◇ Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Schools
- ◇ Big Brothers-Big Sisters
- ◇ Bombeck Family Learning Center
- ◇ Boonshoft Museum of Discovery
- ◇ City of Dayton Recreation and Youth Services
- ◇ City of Kettering
- ◇ Catholic Social Services
- ◇ Dayton Children's
- ◇ Dayton Metro Library
- ◇ Dayton Public Schools
- ◇ Five Rivers MetroParks
- ◇ Help Me Grow Brighter Futures
- ◇ Kettering City Schools
- ◇ Learn to Earn Dayton
- ◇ Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Head Start
- ◇ Miami Valley Family Care Center
- ◇ Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside
- ◇ Mini University
- ◇ Montgomery County Children's Services
- ◇ Montgomery County Fatherhood Initiative
- ◇ Montgomery County Jobs and Family Services
- ◇ The Ohio State University Extension Office
- ◇ Pfaces- Parent, Family and Couples Education Services
- ◇ Preschool Promise
- ◇ Samaritan Behavioral Health, Inc.
- ◇ State Support Team-Region 10
- ◇ Think TV
- ◇ Trotwood-Madison
- ◇ United Way of Greater Dayton Area
- ◇ University of Dayton
  - ◇ Center for Catholic Education
  - ◇ Center for Early Learning
  - ◇ Empowering Children with Hope and Opportunity (ECHO)
  - ◇ Fitz Center for Leadership in Community- Neighborhood School Project
  - ◇ School of Education and Health Sciences
- ◇ YMCA of Greater Dayton

## Resources

The Family Engagement Collaborative relies on the website ([www.familyengagementcollaborative.com](http://www.familyengagementcollaborative.com)) to inform the community about programs, resources and events available to families and those who work with families. These resources provide updates, announce upcoming events and provide a repository for the resources that have been developed or curated by the collaborative.

### Community Calendar

The collaborative maintains a community calendar for family engagement programs and events occurring in the Miami Valley. Updated daily events are linked by to the sponsoring organization.

### Toolkits

Toolkits are a curated collection of online resources for families and professionals who work with families. The topics are updated regularly with new resources added throughout the year.

### Monthly Media Package

A monthly media package is sent out each month to program directors and others who support and communicate with families. The package includes seasonally relevant information that can be sent to families via social media, email or in newsletters.

### Director's Corner

The Director's Corner is a seasonal electronic resource that is sent out to the directors of early learning programs in preparation for the next season. Filled with strategies to engage families, this tool guides directors through the year with a selection of ideas to choose from to meet the needs of their program.

### The Family Engagement System Self-Evaluation (FESSE)

The *Family Engagement System Self-Evaluation* is a research-based tool designed to inform users of the best practice principles of effective family engagement. The tool can be used in schools, organizations and agencies and encourages the user to assess current practice and develop an action plan for improvement. FESSE Training is available and scheduled through the website.