

A CASE STUDY ON PUTTING PARENTS AT THE CENTER OF OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SOLUTIONS BY THE PARENT INNOVATION INSTITUTE.

One in three children are not prepared for kindergarten nationwide. This study identifies ways parents can better support their child's early learning.

.....

This research report describes a study conducted by the Early Learning Lab and supported by the Overdeck Family Foundation. Burdened by the statistic that 1 in 3 children are not prepared for kindergarten nationwide, they sought to identify ways that parents can better support their children's early learning. The researchers identified three barriers that often impede families receiving the support they need:

1. Family-serving organizations often fail to design appropriate programming for families needs since they don't engage parents effectively.
2. Organizations and parents often don't have the skills needed to effectively collaboratively design solutions for young learners.
3. Family-serving organizations often have to fight for funding within their communities and rarely collaborate to broaden their reach.

From these barriers, the researchers drew the conclusion that parents need to be involved in creating education solutions, rather than just receiving them. The team launched The Parent Innovation Framework, a year-long initiative consisting of four participating organizations in Fruitvale, California, designed to generate the following impacts:

1. Improve programs and services to better meet parents' and families' needs
2. Develop parent and staff leadership and innovation capacity
3. Strengthen connections between parent-serving organizations in a community

Each participating organization in the Framework assembled teams of two parents and two staff members, who together worked through a five-step framework to co-create new, targeted solutions for young children and families. As a result, each team received experienced improved programs and services, strengthened leadership and innovation capacity, and connected the local early childhood ecosystem. Based on the work and its positive results, the researchers distilled the following effective principles needed for co-creation and rapid-cycle learning:

1. Be culturally competent
2. Encourage a growth mindset
3. Co-create authentically
4. Identify appropriate impact measurement
5. Encourage creativity and build community
6. Create opportunities for leadership

The report also offers links that describe each team's efforts and outcomes in more detail. There is also more information about how others can apply the challenges from this initiative to their own environments to improve their early learning support network.

The Parent Innovation Institute. (October 2018) "A Case Study on Putting Parents at the Center of Early Childhood Solutions." n.p. Early Learning Lab.

[<https://earlylearninglab.org/parent-innovation-institute-case-study/>](https://earlylearninglab.org/parent-innovation-institute-case-study/)

Thanks to generous support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, *Our Neighborhood*, is a compilation of stories and research from the family engagement field. It is intended to be a living repository and guide for STEM Learning Ecosystems and other communities interested in cultivating strong community partnerships to prepare the next generation.

This annotated bibliography was compiled by TIES for *Our Neighborhood*.