

Parents as Partners Principles

Believe

Believe in what they
can achieve

We all need to believe parents can achieve the best for their children and families.

Connect

Connect with Parents

To focus on connection with parents, with patience and passion to support them achieve the very best for their children.

Belong

Belong and encouraged
to shine

We all need to find ways to build on the individual strengths of parents, to help them feel they belong and are part of a community and to know that they can shine in their parental role.

Trust

A consistent relationship
with someone they trust

As with children, parents also need someone to trust – we need to enable professionals and volunteers to have the time to earn parents' trust.

Hope

Able to tell their story and have hope
for the future

Parents need to be able to tell their story, to be listened to, to help them make the changes that they need to develop hope for themselves and their family's future.



Parents as Partners Principles

Believe

- What do you believe this parent is capable of?
- How can you show the parents that you believe that they can achieve?
- What are the parent's wishes for their future?

Connect

- What do I know about this parent/s that will help me to connect?
- Am I using language they can easily understand?
- How do I show them that I value them?

Belong

- Where does this parent/s feel they belong/part of something?
- How might we support this parent find something that they can feel passion for?
- Is there anything preventing them from feeling part of a community?

Trust

- Who does this parent/s trust?
- How can we, as professionals, maintain the relationship over time?
- Who else is influencing this parent/s? Is this a good influence?

Hope

- Is this parent/s able to make sense of how they feel? (e.g. why they feel happy/sad/angry etc.)
- Know who they can speak to in confidence?
- Can this parent/s find hope despite previous experiences?

- How did it feel doing the exercise?
- What are your thoughts?
- What did you learn?



Connect

Connect with parents.

We need to focus on connection with parents, with patience and passion to support them achieve the very best for their children.

Connect

- What am I doing to meet these parents where they are at?
- Am I using language they can easily understand?
- How well do I know these parents?
- What do I know about these parents that will help me to connect?
- How do I show them that I value them?
- What do they see when they see me?
- What will make it easier for these parents to connect?

Trust

A consistent relationship
with someone that they
trust.

As with children, parents also need someone to
trust – we need to enable professionals and
volunteers to have the time to earn parents' trust.

Trust

- Who do these parents trust?
- Who would they turn to if they had a problem?
- Who is/are their trusted professional(s)?
- How can we, as professionals, maintain the relationship over time?
- Who else is influencing these parents?
Is this a good influence?
- Who else is in their network of support in family and social life?
- If there's no one, how do we start to enable a new relationship?
- Who do these parents not trust?

Hope

Able to tell their story and have hope for the future.

Parents need to be able to tell their story, to be listened to, to help them make the changes that they need to develop hope for themselves and their family's future.

Hope

- Are these parents stigmatised in any way?
- Are these parents able to make sense of their life story?
- Where can these parents do the sensemaking?
- Are there ways that they can share their life story?
- Can these parents find hope despite previous trauma?
- Are these parents able to move on from the trauma?
- What do these parents have to look forward to and what are their hopes?

Belong

Belong and encouragement
to shine.

We all need to find ways to build on the individual strengths of parents to help them feel they belong and are part of a community and to know that they can shine in their parental role.

Belong

- Where do these parents feel most comfortable?
- Who is in their family and social network?
- How might we support this parent find something for themselves that they can feel passion for?
- Where do they feel they belong and feel part of something?
- Where do they feel accepted for being themselves?
- Are there any needs or difficulties preventing them from feeling part of a community?

Believe

Believe in what they can achieve.

We all need to believe parents can achieve the best
for the children and and families.



Believe

- What do you believe this parent is capable of?
- Does this parent know that you believe in them?
- How can you show the parents that you believe that they can achieve?
- What does this parent have to look forward to?
- What are the parent's wishes for their future?