Understanding Parent – Provider Perspectives

(Please use the following outline to direct your research on the topic that you missed.)

Contact the trainer in regard to handouts associated with this topic.

In the best case scenario, children and parents fully participate in the childcare program. The relationship between parent and caregiver affects the child’s participation in the program. There are several factors that influence the relationship between parent and caregiver.

View the following video then respond to the questions.

“Protective Urges” (27:14)

https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=protective+urges+in+childcare&view=detail&mid=C1C3B415BA83D3FC7063C1C3B415BA83D3FC7063&FORM=VRDGAR

Main Topic #1: The Changing Family

- Families of today, look very different from those in the past. Parents have many more factors interfering with the way they raise their children. Listed below are some of those factors. How might each one impact the parent/family?
  - Guilt Factor:

  - Time Factor:

  - Stress Factor:

Main Topic #2: The Perfect Parent

- Think about the parents you work with or have worked with in the past. What would the “perfect” parent look like? What attributes do you wish ALL parents possessed? What strengths do you want your “perfect” parent to have?
(Just like we are never going to be a perfect provider, no parent will ever be perfect. We can still find ways to partner with them and make the best of our encounters!)

Main Topic #3: Caregiver vs. Parent Perspective

The perfect parent or the perfect caregiver is a value judgment; a matter of opinion. How we see parents is based on our own values and beliefs and will differ for each of us. How parents see caregivers is also a matter of opinion. Remember that most parents truly want what is best for their child, as do you, the caregiver. If all involved can keep the child as the focus of all interactions and communication, the relationship can be productive.

However, there are always going to be times when caregiver and parent perspectives differ. It is beneficial for us to be able to try see the others’ perspective and work toward a common understanding.

- Below are a few common caregiver frustrations. Think of these situations from the parent perspective. How might these situations look from their perspective? What might be going on in the parent’s world that is creating the frustration for the caregiver?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caregiver Frustration</th>
<th>Parent Perspective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Late Payments</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bringing an ill child</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parents not cooperating with toilet training</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Now look at the following situations from the caregiver perspective. How might these situations look from their perspective?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent Frustration</th>
<th>Caregiver Perspective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child discussed with other parents</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Caregiver with no flexibility</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Know-it-all” caregiver</td>
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</table>
Hopefully, you can see that there may be two sides to any given issue. Seeking to understand each other is key to working toward a resolution that everyone is satisfied with.

- Describe the process or efforts that you go through to understand the parent perspective. What strategies do you use to keep lines of communication open with the parents you work with?

Main Topic #4: The Homeless Parent

- Homelessness is defined as “lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” Parents in these situations have additional concerns that can prevent them from being the kind of parent you hope to be working with. What are some strategies you may need to implement in order to understand the perspective of a parent who is homeless?