**Communicating With Parents:**

**INTRODUCTION: FORMAT**

**1. Vignette 1**

a. (activity write out note to parent-you are the child care provider)

b. switch notes with a partner, (the partner when reading the note is the parent)

c. Discussion

**2. Vignette 2**

a. watch video

b. find a partner-one being parent the other being the child care provider

c. discuss the child’s day including the observed incident

**3. DISCUSSION**

**Activity 1:**

1. Feelings? Provider, Parent, Child

2. What type of comments opened the correspondence?

3. How long was the note?

4. What is referenced in the note other than the child’s behavior?

5. Is there anything you really liked about the note you read?

6. Anything that you might do different?

**Activity 2:**

1. Was this activity more difficult or easier? How

2. Feelings? Parent, Provider, Child

3. Did you feel like you were heard?

4. Did you feel like you were given the opportunity to talk?

5. Did you feel like the parent was supportive?

6. What do you think will happen after this meeting?

7. Do you feel like as the provider you care more than the parent?

8. Parent, do you feel like you know your child better than this teacher?

9. Do you feel like you would or do parent better than this parent?

OVERCOMING BIASES

 a. differing beliefs about parenting

 B. Time

 c. language

 d. past experience-reputation

10. What did you to with these thoughts, feelings?

**4. WHY COMMUNICATE**

-MODELING

-RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

-HELP THE CHILD, CLASSROOM, ETC.

**5. WHEN TO COMMUNICATE-Maintaining the Relationship**

-GROCERY STORE

-BEFORE CLASS/AFTER CLASS

-DAILY-FORMS, COMMUNICATORS, WEB PAGES

-MONTLY-NEWSLETTER

-CLASSROOM VISITS

-phone calls

-TAKE THE TIME TO BUILD AND IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP

-communicate often

**6. HOW TO COMMUNICATE:**

- EVERY CONTACT WITH A PARENT IS AN OPPORTUNITY

-TWO WAY COMMUNICATION

-NOTES-OR LETTERS MEMORY DEVICE LAST OR FIRST

-represent and respect each person’s role (parent, child, and yours)

-be dependable

-show that you are interested

-be flexible

-get to know this person as well as their child

-be yourself

-accept people for who they are

-professionalism in grammar

-location

**7. How to listen?**

-Pay attention to:

-verbal (actual words)

-nonverbal (body language)

-tone of voice

-mixed messages

Communication is 85% non-verbal.

**PREVENTING CONFLICTS PYRAMID**

**7. COMMUNICATING DIFFICULT INFORMATION:**

\*CSFEL DO’S AND DON’TS

**8. What to do when you have conflict?**

-keep in mind the prize-peace, your integrity, professionalism, the RELATIONSHIPS at stake

-less is better

-it is ok to agree to disagree and still maintain professionalism

-Healthy is the most direct, both parties feel able to share needs and concerns openly