



Tips for Supporting and Engaging Families

S.E.E.K.! to engage families

- Support
- Empathize
- Empower
- Knowledge

"Criticism and Blame = Recidivism"

"Encouragement and Education = Reduced Recidivism and Family Investment"

Support!

- When parents feel like they are part of the problem solving team rather than "the problem" they are more likely to seek out treatment and skill building.

Empathize!

- FEAR (Families may have fear of Law Enforcement; DHHS; The System)
- When schools and agencies are involved, parents may feel their actions are being judged and/or they are losing parental control
- Consider Family's Needs and Wants (success; assistance; support)

Empower!

- Empower by welcoming parental input, shared decision making, give them a sense of involvement and feeling valued. Provide leadership opportunities.
- Direct parents to family resources.
- Reframe negative thought patterns; transform negative family blaming thoughts into positive family engaging thoughts.

Knowledge!

- Knowledge and education leads to growth; new and increased skills
- Benefits of S.E.E.K.! Increased family involvement; improved family, provider, school and law enforcement relationships; reduced risk of substance abuse and recidivism..

Contact us at 1-800-264-9224 or visit our website www.gearparentnetwork.org