



Parent Cafés: Engaging Communities Through Guided Conversation

What is a Parent Café:

- A Parent Café is an innovative yet simple methodology for hosting conversations about questions that matter.
- Based upon the World Café Model (www.theworldcafe.com), it is a series of guided conversations that link and build upon each other as people move between groups, cross-pollinate ideas, and discover new insights into the questions or issues that are most important in their life, work, or community.
- Parent Cafes allow parents, stakeholders, and community members to develop a collective voice and build upon community wisdom to impact parenting practices, action and policy to improve the lives of their children and their families. Leadership development and parent partnerships are built through this process and are developed around the strengthening families protective factors.

What Does a Parent Cafe Look Like?

- Conversations are guided by questions that help participants think deeply and grow collective wisdom about families, parenting practices, themselves, leadership, and community partnership.
- Parents and community members gather with each other in diverse settings, share a meal together, and begin to instantly share and build relationships.
- The Parent Café connects the intimacy of small group dialogue with the excitement of larger group learning.

Core Principles of a Parent Cafe:

- Focus on what matters
- Everyone's contribution is important
- Listen to understand
- Build and share collective wisdom and consensus

Cafe Guidelines:

1. Clarify the purpose
2. Create a hospitable space
3. Explore questions that matter
4. Encourage everyone's contribution
5. Connect diverse perspectives
6. Listen for insights and share discoveries