

# Interpersonal Skills & Family Engagement

## WHAT ARE INTERPERSONAL SKILLS?

- Interpersonal skills, also known as soft skills, are tools we use to interact with others. These skills include the ability to effectively communicate and build relationships with others.

## WHY ARE INTERPERSONAL SKILLS IMPORTANT FOR EFFECTIVE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT?

- Family engagement is about creating meaningful partnerships between families, schools, and communities to support student academic achievement. Interpersonal skills encourage collaboration, building trust, resolving conflict, and supporting success!



## TIPS FOR IMPROVING INTERPERSONAL SKILLS:

- Be open to feedback: Constructive criticism helps you grow.
- Be inclusive: Encourage participation and value other voices.
- Ask questions: Ensure you have understanding.
- Manage your emotions: Pause and reflect before reacting.

## KEY INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

### Communication

- Use plain, positive, and inclusive language
- Be mindful of tone and body language.

### Active Listening

- Show genuine interest in what others are sharing.
- Reflect and summarize to show understanding.

### Empathy

- Understanding and sharing the feelings of others – try to see situations from their perspective.
- Acknowledge emotions and experiences without judgement.

### Teamwork

- Collaborate with others to achieve common goals.
- Create a welcoming environment.
- Encourage two-way communication.

### Conflict Resolution

- Address disagreements calmly.
- Focus on finding a solution for all involved.



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## REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Which interpersonal skill do you feel strongest in?
- Which skill do you want to improve the most?
- How do these skills show up in your daily interactions?
- How do these skills show up in your interactions with your student's teacher/school?