



Meeting Minutes

9/9/2024

Presentation: TIPS For Great Kids Basic Training

There were 25 people in attendance representing 4 centers. Three board members were present.

Melanie Jackson welcomed everyone and introduced Scott Kines from UAMS as the presenter for the evening.

Mr. Kines shared information about what TIPS means (Teaching Important Parenting Skills). It is a proactive approach to partnering with parents. The information concerning TIPS can be found at www.tipsforgreatkids.com. There you will find 65-70 topics with expert articles for early childhood education providers. Each article has 1 to 5 TIPS cards for the providers to share with families.

Who does TIPS help? It helps the provider and the families. Parents want guidance but they often face time constraints and conflicting information. Why should we share information about children with families? The first 5 years are the most critical time for brain development, we have daily contact with families, families trust us, and we have common goals with families for the children to grow up healthy and happy. Are we qualified to do this? We might not be a parent, have a degree to teach parents, or we may be younger than the parents, but we ARE qualified! With TIPS, we learn together. There are risk factors and protective factors. The most important protective factor is for a child to have a strong bond with a caring, reliable adult. WE might be the child's best protective factor. Risk factors are NOT predictive factors thanks to protective factors.

Class participants spent some time practicing navigating the TIPS website, and learning how to access and share the information. We learned that there are two approaches for sharing information, proactive and reactive. To be proactive, send TIPS out in advance of a situation to prevent something from becoming an issue. If a parent already has a concern, be reactive and respond to the concern by sharing an appropriate TIPS topic. There are 3 steps for conversations with families. First, observe and listen to. Gather information by watching, then listening. Ask questions to clarify. Second, empathize with the parent. Put yourself in their shoes. Be understanding so they don't feel like they're alone. Third, respond. Give an appropriate TIPS card. Be sure to never share sensitive or confidential information. Prioritize and share ONE TIPS card at a time. Pick the area that affects the child's safety first. Working closely with families saves time and trouble. When adults coordinate children feel safer and learn more.

A QR code was provided for the class survey. Donny Caudill awarded the door prizes (two Amazon gift cards) to the class participants whose ticket numbers were drawn.

Melanie thanked everyone for attending, announced when the next class is scheduled, and dismissed the class.