



SF INCLUSION NETWORKS PARENT MEET AND GREET DESCRIPTION

The Parent Meet and Greets evolved over the 2 ½ years we worked with the pilot sites. They began as initial parent meetings to introduce our SFIN project team members.

In the third year of the project, Cindy our ST was invited to participate in one of these parent orientation meetings at a pilot site. What we learned was that families appreciated the direct contact with a therapist. They had questions about child development, dual language learners, autism, and school readiness. We had developed relationships with the three sites and through this relationship and trust building, we were able to approach the sites with the idea of parent meet and greets for parents to meet our team (OT, ST, inclusion specialist and family involvement manager). All meet and greets were meant to be an informal gathering, where coffee and pastries are served in a round table setting, allowing the parents to ask questions while our team charted them and followed up the following month with their requests for information and/or resources. The SFIN team developed handouts based on the questions asked, including a handout on school readiness.

SFIN assisted, supported, and followed up on referrals to SFCD as well.

The sites have seen the value of this informal setting in which families can directly ask their providers/specialists questions. They've also seen the parent-to-parent support and parent leadership that can be fostered.

The pilot site sustainability plans include family engagement with the parent meet and greets as a mechanism to engage families in their child's learning and development, decision-making processes, and leadership.