

The 3 P's of Afterschool

Professionalism, Parent and Family Engagement,
and Positive Attitude



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

What's ahead...

In this session we will cover the 3 P's of Afterschool

- Professionalism
- Parent and Family Engagement
- Positive Attitude

Handouts for the session will be:

- Connecticut After School Network Quality Self-Assessment Tool (CT-QSAT)
- Slides
- Related Articles/Resources



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

Who Do You Call?

Listen to the scenario and answer the following questions:

- Do you seek out a professional?
- What types of behaviors do you expect from this professional?
- What if they didn't meet your expectations?
- How would that make you feel?

Imagine someone choosing where their child goes afterschool, what experience do you want them to have?



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

P = Professionalism

There is a direct relationship between how staff carry themselves and the level of quality of a program

In this section we will look at:

- What does being an afterschool professional mean?
- What is the CT-QSAT
- What is your role as a direct service staff?
- Risk management and professional ethics



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

WHAT DOES BEING AN AFTER SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL MEAN?

- Having a working knowledge of children's ages and stages
 - Curriculum must be adjusted per age group o K - 2nd grade
 - 3 - 5th grade
 - 6th - 8th grade
 - High school level
 - Is what you are trying to accomplish age appropriate?
 - Can the children understand how to do what you are asking?
 - Is it at the right level (not too hard/not too easy)?



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

WHAT DOES BEING AN AFTER SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL MEAN?

- Training and Experience with Youth
 - What do you like to do that you can share with the children?
 - What are your hobbies, what did you do when you were younger?
 - What can you learn from the children?
 - Are you using research based activities with the children?
 - What outcomes do you expect when you do an activity with the children?



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

WHAT DOES BEING AN AFTER SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL MEAN?

- You have PASSION for what you do
 - Why do you work with children?
 - Do you want to make a difference in their lives?
 - Is it in your heart that this is what you want to do?
- Do you show the children that you enjoy spending time with them?
- What are some ways you express your passion for what you do?



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

WHAT DOES BEING AN AFTER SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL MEAN?

- Awareness of Standards
 - There are multiple resources available to you:
 - Connecticut After School Network Quality Self-Assessment Tool (CT-QSAT)
 - Take a few minutes in a small group and review the "Relationships" section
 - What stands out for you?
 - National AfterSchool Association (NAA) Core Knowledge and Competencies
- Standards allow all program staff to be on the same page as they work with children



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

YOUR ROLE AS AN AFTER SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL

- Some important points to remember:
- Parents trust you with their child
 - Parents want their children to learn, grow, and develop friendships in after school programs
- Your role is to provide a SAFE and caring environment
 - Children thrive and learn in these types of environments
 - It is your job to provide them with enrichment opportunities



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

RISK MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONALISM

- What is your level of risk and what behaviors put you at risk?
 - Gossip - talking about a parent/ co worker
 - Ramifications - possible dangers
- Legal or employment



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

P = PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- Parents often turn to after school programs for a multitude of reasons:
 - Need for after school care while they work
 - They want their child to have social opportunities
 - To give their child an opportunity for physical activities
- In this section we will look at:
 - What are the benefits to children when parents are involved after school?
 - Look at how we interact with parents in our programs
 - How we can set the stage for parents to be involved after school



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

THE BENEFITS OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- When parents are involved children have perform better academically
 - Research shows that children have higher test scores and better attendance
- When parents are involved the program benefits
 - Parents feel that their children are in a "safe" place
 - When staff has positive relationships with parents they feel empowered like their opinion matters



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES BENEFIT FROM CONNECTIONS

- When parents are involved the family benefits
 - Parents that are involved with their children's activities have more connectivity within the family
 - Parents that are involved reach out to other families
- Parents will come if opportunities are presented
 - After school programs need to intentionally create opportunities for parents to be involved



GRAFFITI WALL - INVOLVING FAMILIES

- How do we interact with parents?
- How can we improve our relationship?
- How do our personal opinions effect that relationship?
- A way to engage families could be...



SETTING THE STAGE

- What types of events will engage families?
- Are there any collaborative partners you could work with? (Family Resource Centers, others?)
- Is it easy for a parent to participate? (Child Care issues, dinner, work?)



CREATE A FAMILY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

- Based on the "Family and Community Partnerships" handout from the CT-QSAT, develop an activity that will engage families
- Parent workshop, family night, advisory role, be creative
- Chart your idea and select a spokesperson for your group



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

THE RELATIONSHIP BUILDING CYCLE

- Relationships with families is cyclical
- When families feel valued they are more likely to be involved
- Positive relationships with families are paramount to the success of your program



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

P = POSITIVE ATTITUDE

- It is often said that attitude is everything, bringing a positive attitude to work sets the stage for the experiences that children have in our program
- Take a minute and think about what type of attitude you bring to work



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

WHAT WE DON'T SAY...

- What biases do we bring to work with us?
- What are some assumptions that we make about children or their parents?
- How does this affect the culture of the program?
- Does this impact your attitude?



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

COMMUNICATION AND RELATIONSHIPS

- How do you communicate your feelings to others?
 - The most important part of working with other people is communication
- Do you...
 - Tell others how you feel in a professional way?
 - Are you reflective "I feel...when you..."
 - Are you modeling a positive attitude for the children to follow?



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

TIME TO ACT THE PART: POSITIVE COMMUNICATION ROLE PLAYING

- Get with a partner and practice talking about how you feel when
 - A staff member sits on the sidelines during a gym game and does not participate
 - A child is being disrespectful to you
 - You had a bad day and need some time away



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

THE BOTTOM LINE

- Practice the 3 P's of After School
 - Professionalism
 - Parent involvement
 - Positive Attitude
- Parents trust you with their child
- Your role is to provide a SAFE and caring environment
- Children and families thrive when they are involved in your program and you have a positive attitude with them



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK

Questions



CONNECTICUT
AFTER
SCHOOL
NETWORK
