

Scaffolding Family Engagement

Scaffolding! It's a technique we use all the time with students. It helps to build new skills on top of known skills. Scaffolding is proven to enhance information retention, boost engagement and self-agency. Scaffolding is also a critical technique for strong family engagement. After all, when we effectively support parents and caregivers, we empower them. To make sure you're scaffolding your family engagement efforts it helps to ask yourself these questions:



What is the thing I am **ACTUALLY ASKING** this family to do? What's involved? Really unpack it!

- What are all the steps involved?
- What are all the materials involved?
- What are all the logistics?
- What are all the required competencies?



Is the “ask” **ACTUALLY DOABLE?** Or is more support necessary?

- Will they know about it in the first place- will they receive the ask? Is it in their home language? At an accessible reading level? Free of jargon?
- Do families have the background knowledge to understand and act upon the thing(s) I'm asking them to do?
- Is the “ask” culturally responsive and strength based?
- Do they have the required materials or a way to get them? Transportation? Time?
- Do they have a person they can ask for help?

