



Post-Webinar Resource Guide:

From Guests to Partners: Deepening Family Voice in Parent Group Meetings

Date: February 18th, 2026
PM ET

Time: 12 PM PT / 1 PM MT / 2 PM CT / 3

<p>Recording Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/15M-vz2qNrHnNXsGD4N_kqgzZEOVisHxX/view?usp=sharing</p>	<p>Slides: https://www.hippyus.org/download/347/02-18-26-from-guests-to-partners-deepening-family-voice-in-parent-group-meetings/3391/02_18_26-from-guests-to-partners_-deepening-family-voice-in-parent-group-meetings-slides.pdf?lang=en</p>
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Session Overview

This Indie Connect, built upon the January 2026 webinar *Incorporating Cultural Traditions and Family Voice* and included five breakout sessions. Each one built on the other to help participants turn ideas into action.

<u>Concepts to Consider</u>	<u>Related Documents</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture shows up every day • Build with families, not for them • Lived experience is expertise • Ask before planning • Small shifts make a big impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporating Cultural Traditions and Family Voice Post-Webinar Resource Guide: https://www.hippyus.org/download/346/1-21-26-incorporating-cultural-traditions-and-family-voice/3331/incorporating-cultural-traditions-and-family-voice-webinar-resource-guide.pdf?lang=en

<u>Concepts to Consider</u>	<u>Related Documents</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move from guests to partners • Who's missing? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MGRA: https://www.hippyus.org/download/308/endorsement/2083/mgra-model-guidance-requirements-and-accreditation-standards-for-quality-hippy-programs-2024-2029.pdf?lang=en • The Group Meeting Planning Form: https://www.hippyus.org/download/308/endorsement/1978/group-meeting-planning-form-3.docx?lang=en

Breakout Room 1: Connect and Reflect

Participants began the session in small breakout groups of two to three people to build connection and celebrate what has been going well in their group meetings this year.

Breakout Room 2: Beginning of the Year

- **Time:** About 10 minutes
- **Group Size:** 2–3 people
- **Scenario and Questions Discussed**
 - Scenario: *It's August. A HIPPY program is planning its beginning-of-year family orientation. The coordinator and home visitors want families to feel welcomed and informed. Attendance is expected to be high.*
 - Questions:
 - Where does culture already show up in the orientation?
 - How will parents' lived experience shape the meeting?
 - What questions should be asked before finalizing plans?
 - How can the Group Meeting Planning Form be utilized to ensure that programs consider culture and parents' lived experience when planning group meetings?
- **Responses Shared in the Large Group**
 - Cheryl Scales - HIPPY SC: Being flexible to meet the needs of all families.
 - Sapphire Jackson: Parents facilitating
 - Claudelia: Resources Fair
 - Jami Stephens, NV- Sunrise Children's Foundation: Focusing on Parent Needs and the Data
 - Pamela Wall: Accommodating families
 - Dwana Doctor: Asking about the interests of parents
 - Morgan - HIPPY Milwaukee: Making comfortable space
 - Deiby Brizuela Lazo: Flexibility
 - Danielle Hayes: Making all families feel welcome
 - Sapphire Jackson: Breakout sessions based on parent interest

- Tiffany S. Ross-Triplett: Parents are at the core of planning. Parents' interests and needs are attached to all planning. Make meetings meaningful.
- Sara Parada HIPPY Fairfax, VA.: Focusing on the family background to feel them welcome
- SerenaGarcia: Having yoga and painting HIPPY cafe was a great idea. I want more info :)

Breakout Room 3: Early Months

- **Time:** About 10 minutes
- **Group Size:** 2–3 people
- **Scenario and Questions Discussed**
 - Scenario: *It's October. Group meeting attendance is high. The same few parents speak during the meetings. Others are quiet. The coordinator and home visitors would like to encourage greater participation in conversations.*
 - Questions:
 - What meeting norms might be staff-driven?
 - How would a partner meeting feel different?
 - What signals “guest” vs “partner”?
 - How can the Group Meeting Planning Form be utilized to ensure that programs partner with families rather than treat them as guests?
- **Responses Shared in the Large Group**
 - Tiffany S. Ross-Triplett: Creating a welcome space for all.
 - Sapphire Jackson: Add family feedback to finalized plans
 - Cassandra Pressley: Respect all voices safe space
 - Danielle Hayes: Creating a parent committee to help with organizing events to get parents more involved.
 - Dwana Doctor: Staying on task and on time
 - Cheryl Scales - HIPPY SC: Allowing families to partner together to share ideas and thoughts.
 - Zyasia: Staying on task
 - Jami Stephens, NV- Sunrise Children's Foundation: Guest vs Partner and making parents feel welcome
 - Jasmine's iPhone: Family feedback
 - Morgan - HIPPY Milwaukee: Parents connecting with each other and feeling like partners together
 - SerenaGarcia: Having a set format program

Breakout Room 4: Midyear Drop

- **Time:** About 10 minutes
- **Group Size:** 2–3 people
- **Scenario and Questions Discussed**

- Scenario: *It's January. Attendance drops. Some families have stopped coming. The coordinator and home visitors would like to re-engage families that have stopped attending.*
- Questions:
 - Who might be missing and why?
 - What questions should the program ask families before planning the next meeting?
 - How could the Group Meeting Planning Form's post-meeting analysis section help to plan the next meeting?
- **Responses Shared in the Large Group**
 - Cassandra Pressley: Work schedules, location, time
 - Jami Stephens, NV- Sunrise Children's Foundation: What's Working and What's Not Working- looking at the past meeting analysis and how we can improve to offer parents/children what they need.
 - Tiffany S. Ross-Triplett: I have a 1 pm and need to hop off. So nice to see you all. A shout-out to my new HIPPY friend, Jami. Thank you.
 - Cheryl Scales - HIPPY SC: Making sure group meetings are innovative, engaging, fun, and parents walk away with ideas and incentives related to the topic.
 - iPhone: Keep them engaged
 - Morgan - HIPPY Milwaukee: Travel during winter... families that live farther away are less likely to attend
 - SerenaGarcia: schedules, maybe they feel overworked with everything...

Breakout Room 5: Spring Adjustments and a Strong Finish

- **Time:** About 10 minutes
- **Group Size:** 2–3 people
- **Scenario and Questions Discussed**
 - Scenario: *It's February. The Coordinator and home visitors would like to try small changes to encourage shared leadership and parent-led activities as they head toward the end-of-year celebration.*
 - Questions:
 - What part of the meeting could shift from staff-led to parent-led?
 - What should the program look for beyond attendance numbers?
 - How could parents help shape the purpose of the end-of-year celebration?
 - Where in the Group Meeting Planning Form could parents take the lead?
- **Responses Shared in the Large Group**
 - Dwana Doctor: The growth of the program is something we look for
 - Cheryl Scales - HIPPY SC: Hosting a story walk with families that can lead to raising awareness for reading and obtaining a library card.
 - Jami Stephens, NV- Sunrise Children's Foundation: Child Outcomes are more important than attendance #'s

- Sapphire Jackson: Parents can lead icebreakers/connection activities. Parents can advocate for other parents to show up for the end of the year celebration and remind them that we will be sending home activities to keep the learning going.
- SerenaGarcia: getting them involved, reminding them that they are important and not just a number. Get the information out there. It's all important.

Closing and Reflection

Participants were asked to reflect on the following questions about the scenarios:

- What patterns did you notice across the year?
- Why does this matter?

Participants were asked what they will do next to incorporate parent voice and family culture into their group meetings. Their responses are below:

- Serena Garcia: There will always be obstacles, and you can get through them with help. It's always going to be a learning process.
- Jami Stephens, NV- Sunrise Children's Foundation: Give additional training/support to home visitors related to making parents feel welcome, networking, and parent-led activities and planning.
- Cassandra Pressley: Collaboration/partnership to build trust at the beginning of the year
- Cheryl Scales - HIPPY SC: Continue to stay as consistent leaders within the communities (HVs and coordinators) we serve and build parents into leaders!

Things to Think About and Do

- **Learn More:** Review the post-webinar resource guide and watch the recording from the January webinar if you have not already done so.
- **Put Ideas Into Practice:** We encourage you to take at least one idea from the conversation and try it in an upcoming parent group meeting.

Thank you for your participation and for the work you do to center families in your programs!