

Can You Hear Me Now?

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The Four A's of Effective Communication

Effective Communication Promotes and Strengthens Partnerships between School and Community.

Begin with the Why?

Benefits to Students:

- improvement in grades, test scores, attitudes, self- concept, behavior, social skills;
- greater study habits and homework completion rates;
- higher attendance rates and a reduction in suspension rates and discipline problems;

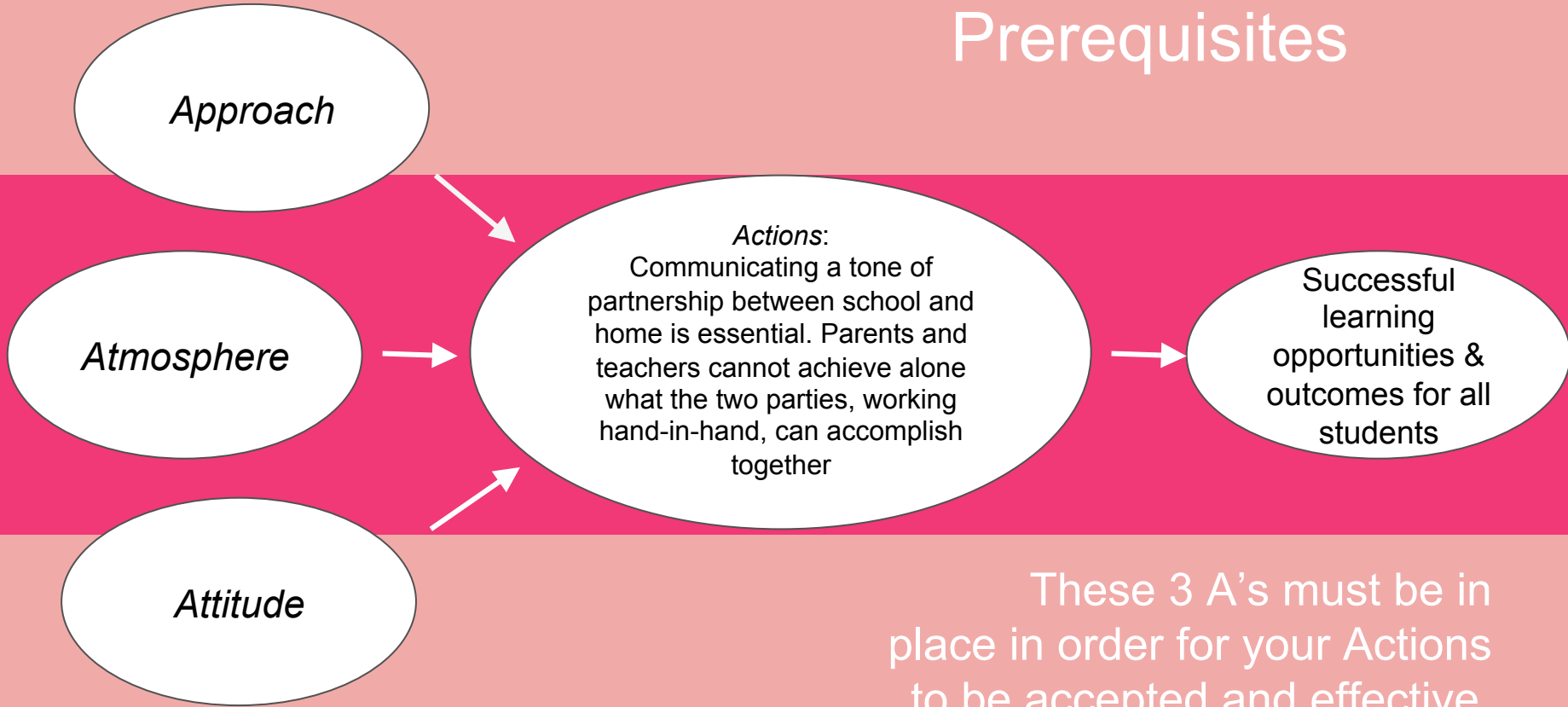
The Four A's

Communication is
the foundation for
all family
involvement.

What's the key?

The relationships that children have with adults and other children in families, child care, and school programs provide the foundation for their success in school (Pianta & Walsh, 1996; Rimm-Kaufman & Pianta, 2001).

Prerequisites



These 3 A's must be in place in order for your Actions to be accepted and effective.

Approach: Evaluate what yours should be

- It's the framework for interacting with your families.
- Do you have an expectation and approach that conveys the understanding that there is a shared responsibility for learning?

Attitude: Be a constructive model!

- ALL families have strengths.
- Parents have important information and perspectives we need.

UNDERSTAND AND ADDRESS BARRIERS

Barriers for School Personnel:

Use of negative communication about students' school performance.
Use of stereotypes about families i.e. dwelling on family problems as an explanation for students' performance.

Barriers for Parents:

Feelings of Inadequacy
Linguistic and Cultural Differences
Economic, emotional and time constraints.



Parents can learn ways to help their children if they are given the opportunity and necessary support.

Atmosphere:

What are the characteristics of schools as welcoming communities?

- ALL families must feel welcome.
- Embrace diversity; use it to your advantage!
- Ethnic, linguistic, religious, and class difference can widen the gap.

Creating a
 Positive
Family Atmosphere

Provide an atmosphere of respect for parents and families.

Each participant brings different but equally valid expertise to the process.

Respect requires acceptance of differences.

An atmosphere that facilitates collaborative, home-school partnerships is one that is characterized by trust and a mutual problem-solving orientation (Christenson, 1995).



Actions:

Put a partnership into place

- Focus on communication.
- Keep a focus on goals and outcomes.
- There is no one-size-fits-all approach.

The Fundamentals of Communication with Parents and Families





Set a tone for shared responsibility.

Be sure school expectations reach parents and families.

Be creative.

How do I
communicate
creatively?

Use a variety of
techniques to
communicate!!!

Email

Newsletters

Phone calls

Texts

Social Media

Teacher Websites

Memos

Invitations

Home visits

Face-to-Face conversations

Word of mouth

Thank you!!!