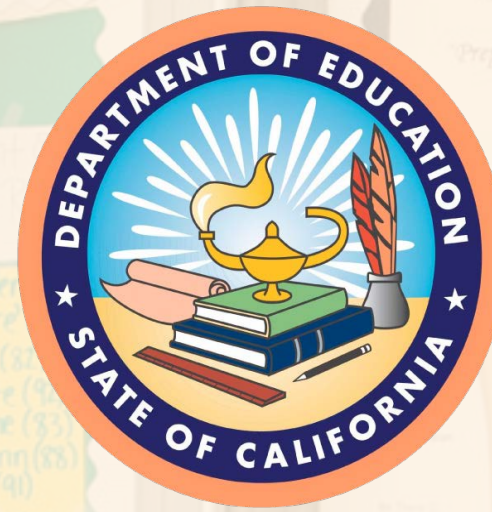




California
Center for
School Climate



Building a Strong Foundation for Family-School Partnerships:

A story about growth and human connections
in early childhood

California Center for School Climate: Goals

Relevance	Data	Connection	Partnership
Deliver relevant, responsive, and engaging technical assistance, on a variety of school climate topics, that meets districts and schools where they are	Support districts and schools with best practices for collecting, using, and measuring data to support equitable school climate systems change and positive school climates	Serve as a connector across the state to promote and disseminate best practices	Support districts and schools in building partnerships with education partners in creating a supportive school climate for all



CCSC Website QR Code

Welcome



Tom Herman

Education Administrator

California Department of Education



Agenda

1. Why Family Engagement Matters
2. Case Study: Robla Preschool
 - Goals
 - Academic Parent-Teacher Teams
 - Impact Data
3. Applying Family Engagement Principles in K–12
4. Q&A
5. Closing

Presenters



Maria Paredes, Senior
Engagement Coordinator,
WestEd



Annabel Lee, Family
Engagement Facilitator,
WestEd

Why Family Engagement Matters

Chat Waterfall

- Type one word that comes to mind when you think of *family engagement* into the chat.
- On the count of 3, we will all share our words at the same time.

What do we mean by family engagement?

Intentional and systematic partnership of educators, families, and community members who share the responsibility for a student's preparation for school, work, and life



Genuine Family Engagement

Two key dimensions:

- Continuous strengthening of trusting relationships between educators and families
- Connection of family engagement activities and efforts to student learning



Parent–Teacher Collaboration and Communication

“When parents and teachers know each other better, they have more trust, and parents can feel more confident letting the teacher know if there is a problem with the child.”

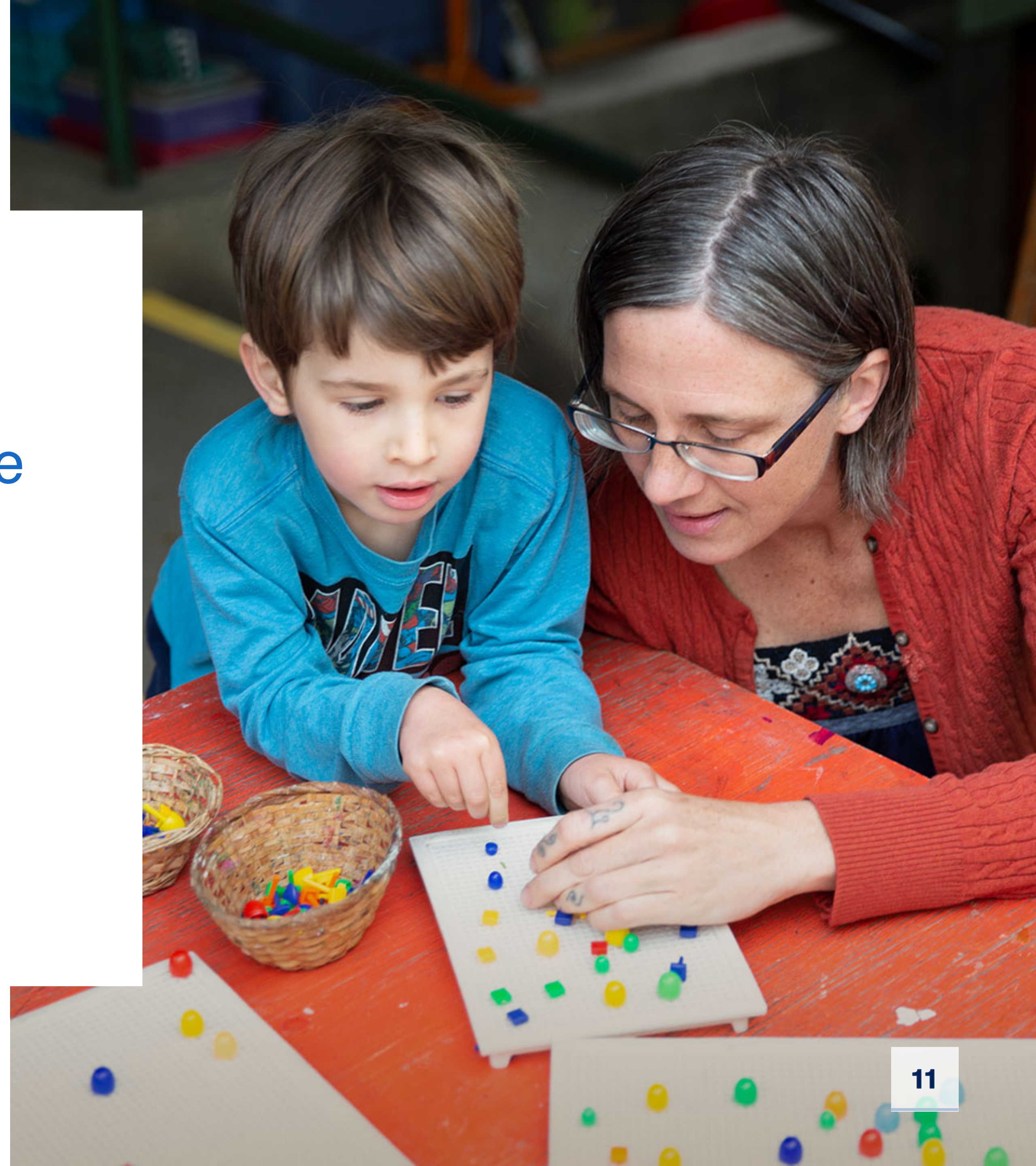
—Teacher



Photo by Antenna

“We have to be a team. It’s not just the teachers that have to educate the children. We have to be involved.”

—Parent



Why Family Engagement Matters for Students

Developing genuine family-school partnerships stimulates **equity** and supports **student and school success**.

When families know how to engage in their children's learning, the children are more likely to:

Increase their
grades

Attend school
more regularly

Enroll in higher-
level programs

Graduate and go
on to college

Be more positive
about school and
learning

Have fewer
discipline issues
inside and
outside of class

Why Family Engagement Matters for School Communities

When schools are successful in developing effective partnerships with families, those schools are more likely to:

Sustain
improvement
efforts

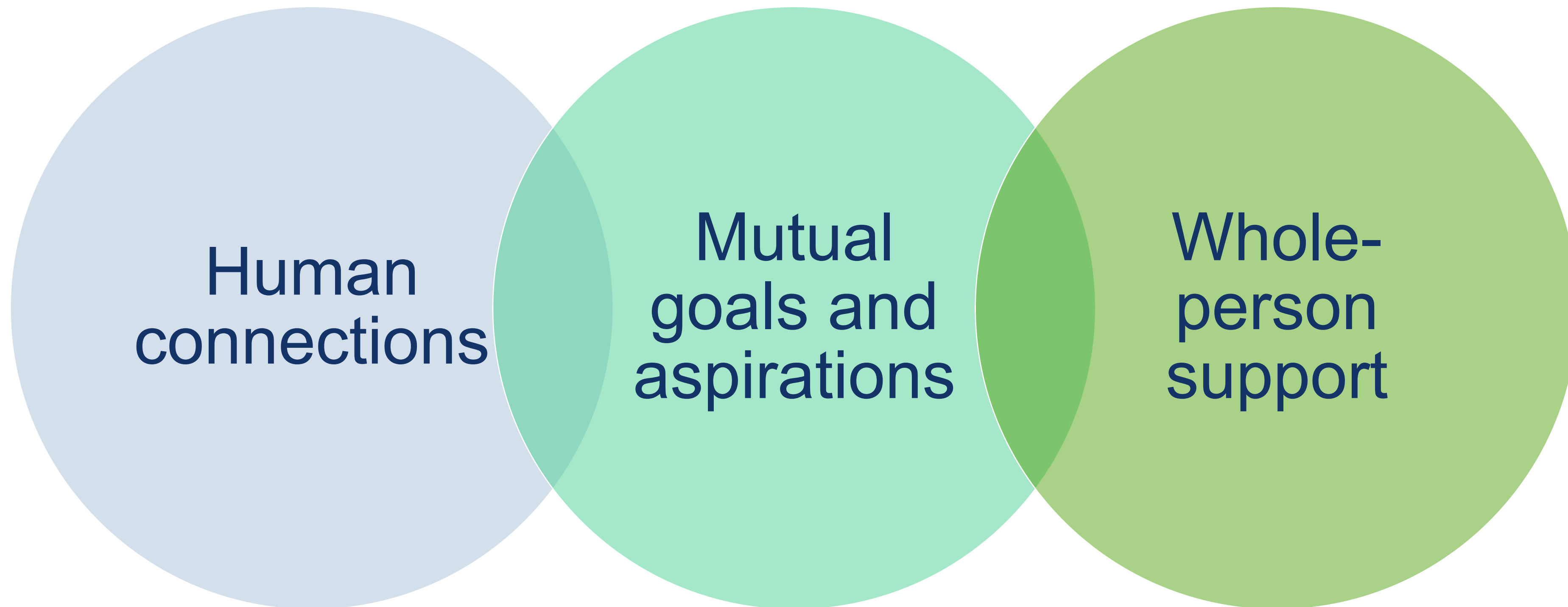
Improve student
attendance

Decrease
disciplinary issues

Develop a positive
school climate and
culture

Reduce teacher
turnover and
improve teacher
job satisfaction

Why Family Engagement Matters





Case Study: Robla Preschool



About Robla Preschool

Provides part- and full-day preschool programs to children 3 to 5 years old.

Provides a special program, Play Pals, which is designed for parent and child learning for children 0 to 3 years old.

Funded through the California Department of Education and First 5 Sacramento.

Located north of downtown Sacramento.



About Robla Preschool

The preschool serves approximately 233 preschool children, including approximately 93 English-learning students.

13 different languages are spoken by its children and families.

Most staff are multilingual, with proficiency in two or more languages.

Hearing from the Field: Interview with Robla Preschool Director

Christie Erhart
Director of Early Learning
Robla School District



Beginning the journey to enhance the family-school relationship



Robla Family Engagement Goals

1. Focus family engagement efforts and activities on kindergarten readiness
2. Improve relationships and trust between teachers and families
3. Strengthen teacher capacity to engage families as equal partners
4. Equip families to monitor and support student learning



Family Engagement Process

Academic Parent-Teacher Teams Model

- APTT is a model of family engagement that is grounded in research and evidence and that aligns grade-level learning concepts, student performance data, and family-teacher communication and collaboration.
- APTT enables education leaders and teachers to focus family engagement efforts on building trusting relationships with families to advance student growth and achievement.



Academic Parent-Teacher Teams (APTT) Model



What is involved in APTT implementation?

APTT Implementation Support

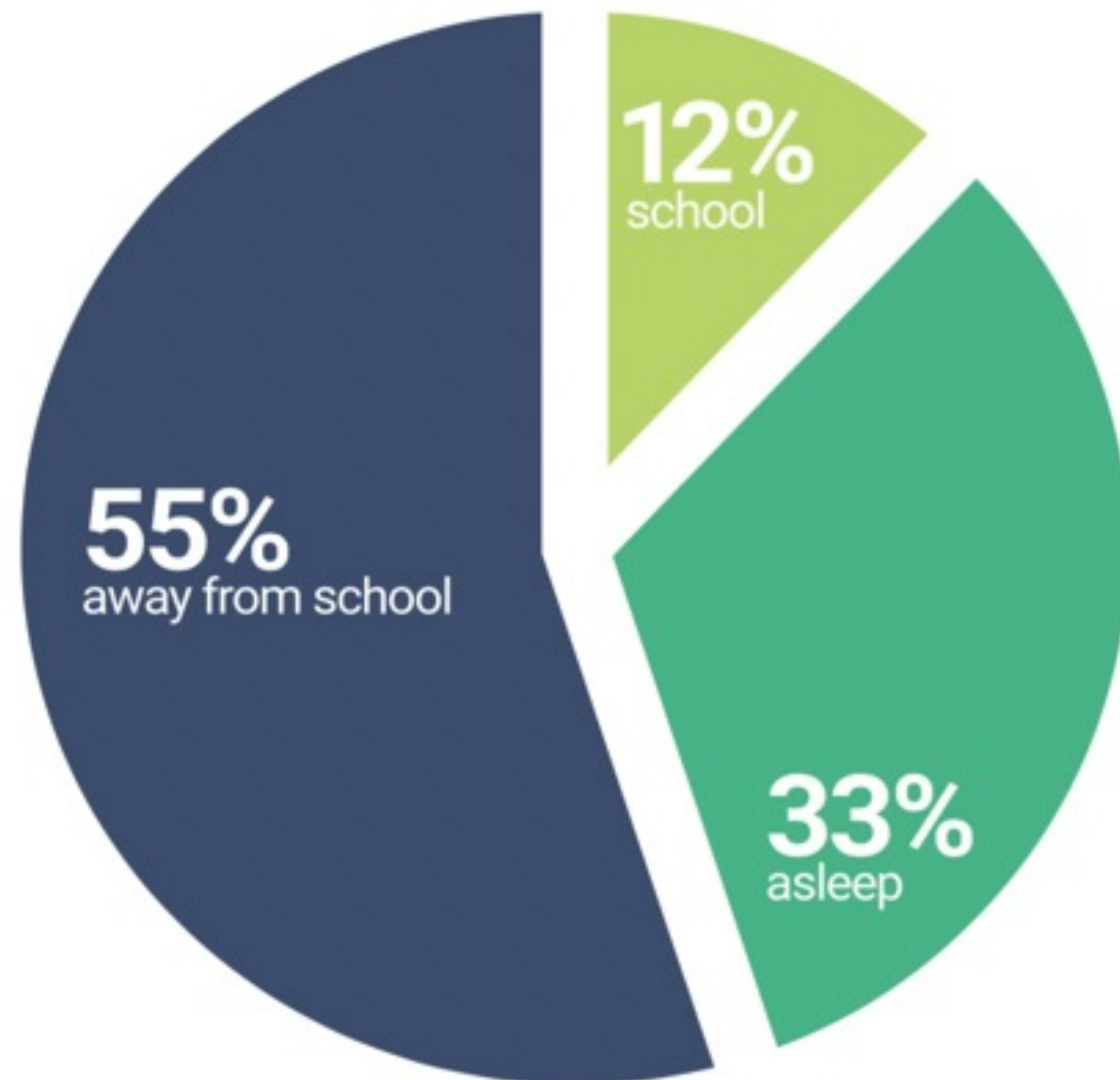
**Initial
Professional
Development**



Family + School Partnerships

WHY

Learning should happen
anywhere anytime with
everyone.



HOW



Academic Parent Teacher
Team Meeting #1
Dec. 9, 2020

Academic Parent Teacher
Team Meeting #2
Feb. 24, 2021

Academic Parent Teacher
Team Meeting #3
Apr. 28, 2021

WHAT

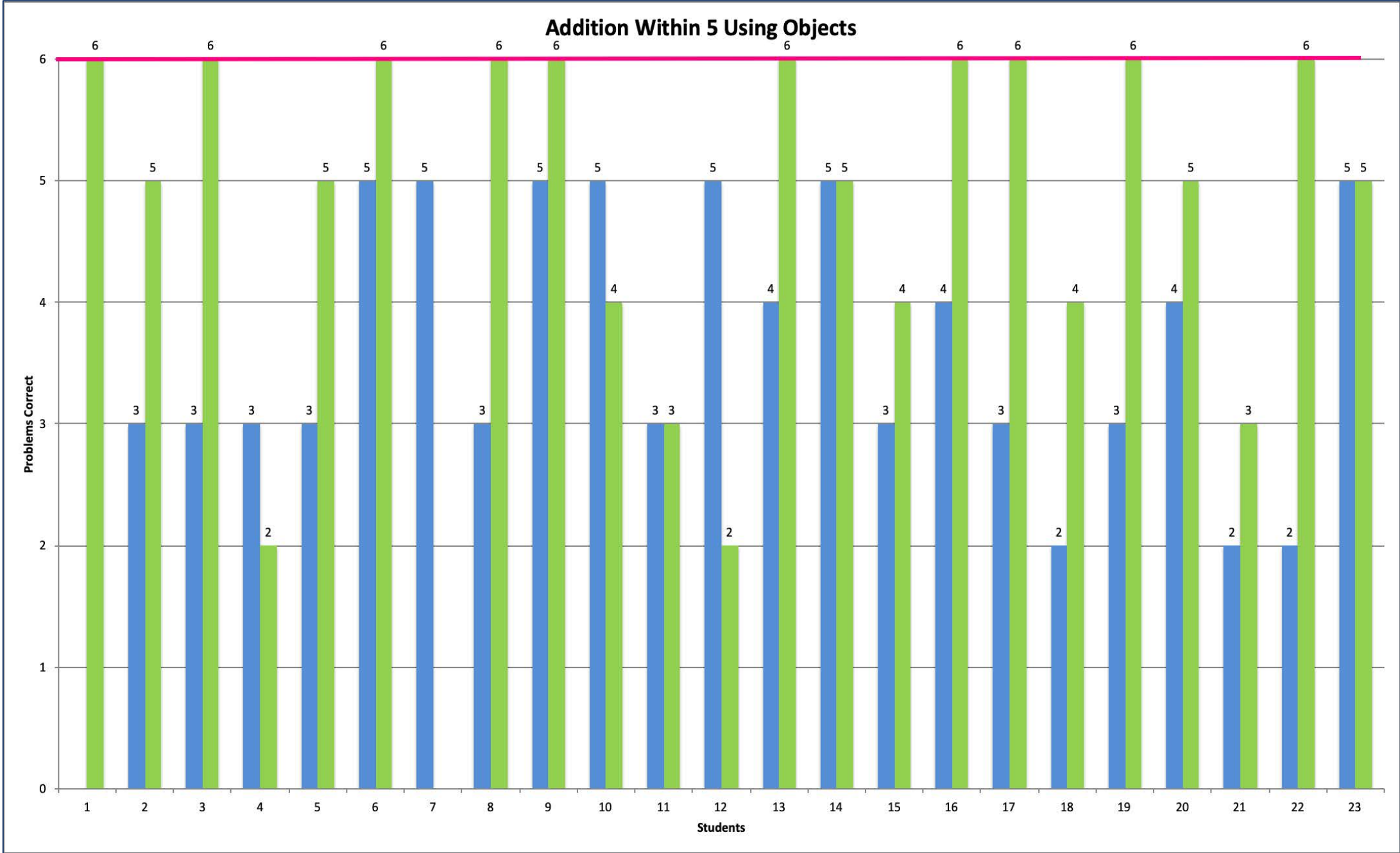
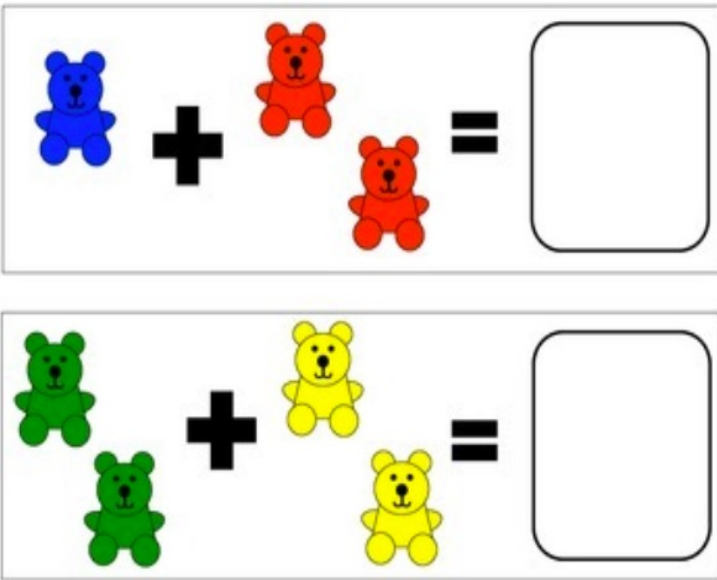
Positive Outcomes

- children are socially, emotionally, and academically successful
- teachers, children and families form collaborative relationships

Families Are Clear on Student Academic Progress

Foundational Grade Level Skill: Using Objects to Add Within 5

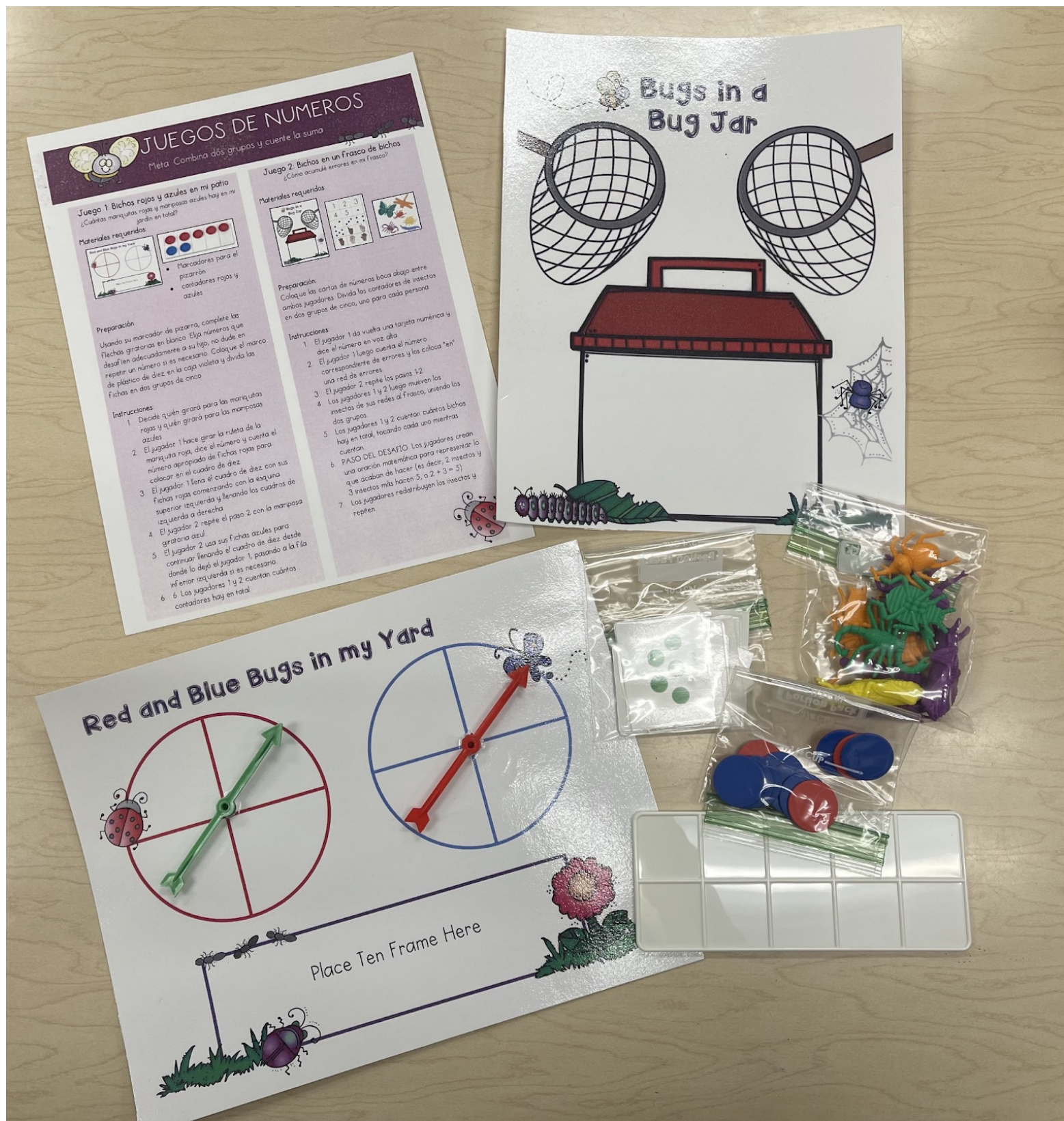
Using objects to add any two numbers that equals 5 or less.




Teachers Build Family Capacity to Support Learning at Home



Families Set Goals to Support and Monitor Student Learning






Academic Parent-Teacher Teams® (APTT)

Family S.M.A.R.T. Goal Sheet

(Teacher Copy)



Child's Name: _____ Date: _____

Skill: Using objects to add within 5

Today my child **adds up to** _____ **using objects.**

To help my child reach the goal, _____ will practice with my child.

(Who?)

Number of days per week: _____ How long each day: _____

By the next APTT meeting, I want my child to **add up to** _____ **using objects.**

Specific • Measurable • Actionable • Realistic • Time-Bound

Roadmap: From Year 1 to Year 3



APTT Year 1 at Robla



APTT Year 2 at Robla



APTT Year 3 at Robla



Let's Hear from Everyone!

What do you do to support families with learning *at home*?

Click this link in the chat and enter your answer(s):

<https://www.menti.com/1uipge8tkq>

OR



OR

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 9981 9305

Hearing from Robla Preschool Teachers



Lorena Poon
Teacher
Robla School District



Vang Thao
Teacher
Robla School District

A Robla Teacher's Reflection

“What I have learned is the importance of having parent involvement. Parents who are involved in their children’s education throughout the year find it rewarding because they become invested in their children’s learning and well-being. When teachers work with the parents, the teachers are able to learn more about the individual student and the family dynamics, and, working together, we’re able to find different strategies to best help the student, not only in the classroom but at home.”

A Robla Teacher's Reflection

"Before the training, we were committed to include parents in multiple activities and events. Now I have learned that family engagement is vital to the children's *learning*. FE should not just be about attending assemblies and holiday functions, but also learning about what is happening in the classroom. Our families are given knowledge about student academic skills and tools that they can use to help their children at home. I'm more confident when I talk with families about how their children are performing in class. I [learned] how to communicate, equip, and connect with families."



Image by Tim Mossholder



Impact Data

Parent Feedback

Impact: Parent Feedback

“APTT helped me support my child’s learning at home.”

- **98% of families strongly agree/agree**

Frequency of practicing skills at home —listening comprehension and parts of a book

- **34% of families practiced 1–2 times a week**
- **52% of families practiced 3–4 times a week**



Impact: Parent Feedback

“The APTT meetings helped me feel more connected to my child’s teacher.”

Year 1 ($n = 113$)

- 97% strongly agree/agree

Year 3 ($n = 63$)

- 98% strongly agree/agree

“The APTT meetings helped me prepare my child for kindergarten.”

Year 1

- 95% strongly agree/agree

Year 3

- 97% strongly agree/agree

Preparing for Kindergarten

“The reading that the teacher did really helped me set a better expectation on how to read to my child.”

—Parent



Photo by Natasha Hall



“Teacher and parent buy-in has made the difference. It is a lot of work, but when children are making gains in skills, as seen by data, and parents are partnering with teachers in this endeavor, it is well worth the work.”—Christie Erhart

“One challenging area that we teachers have to be conscious of is when parent-teacher meetings are held—as teachers, we must be flexible with the times. Parents have busy schedules, and we may need to hold meetings outside of our work hours in order to have more parent attendance.”—Robla Teacher

Recommendations for Family Engagement in All Grades





Applying Family Engagement Principles

Elementary and Secondary Levels

Building Capacity

School staff and families develop skills, confidence, and the disposition for authentic home and school partnerships.

Examples:

- Educators know how to create strong connections with all families.
- Educators facilitate engaging meetings with families, using adult learning strategies.
- Families know how to reach and engage with school staff.



Building Capacity: Questions to Consider

1. What are key family engagement needs and opportunities?
2. What behaviors and systems need to improve or be transformed?
3. What skills and behaviors should educators learn?
4. How should capacity development opportunities be organized over time for continuous growth and sustainability?
5. What kind of support will educators need to be successful?



Process

Districts and schools adopt and implement practices that engage families at all levels of the system.

Examples:

- Educators have dedicated time weekly to communicate and collaborate with families.
- Families know helpful questions to ask teachers about learning priorities or how to help their child at home.



Q&A



Thank you for joining us.
