

## What should researchers know about how to approach families to engage in research?

### Lynda:

I don't feel that family engagement is accessible to me right now because I am not finding projects until after they are in motion.

But even a year ago, I had never heard of it, so I wouldn't have recognized it if a project presented itself.

I would love to see a general background information circulating in numerous areas that families attend. Not just clinical ones, but social community spaces as well.

In my local area, that would be through cerebral palsy organizations that use email, Facebook and zoom.

It would also be in sports and community centres that hold fun programs for children in mobility devices.

I think it's a benefit to approach families when they are most comfortable.

As a parent, you aren't always aware of the frameworks in place. For this reason, if FER is suggested through a doctor's office or therapy centre, there should be extra care given that the family understands it is separate from the expected pattern of participation and treatment.

Ideally, for my family, we would like a casual introduction that leads to an online database or forum where families and researchers could post bios, projects and connect.