

What can be done to support FER?

Stacey:

Take the time to learn about family engagement in research before getting started. There is a lot to learn for both families and researchers. Look for online resources, talk to those who have experience, and look for courses. When you're starting, ask lots of questions and ensure there is time to build a partnership. Family engagement in research differs depending on the project and those involved so having clear lines of responsibility and well defined expectations from the onset is critical. Consider creating a team charter at the beginning of a project with preferred methods of communication, deliverables for each stage, and a timelines, may help. Open communication is also essential and don't underestimate the importance of building trust.