NJ Family Engagement Hub

START Statewide Technical Assistance and Resources Team

Better Together

A Tool for Collaborative Problem-Solving & Action



Move from exchanging information to collaborative problem-solving and action. Focus on interests rather than positions; separate people from problems; explore multiple solutions; build consensus; and make decisions together.

Approach	Strategy	Guiding Questions
Define- what are we trying to address?	Describe the issue without assigning blame or assuming a solution.	What is the situation or concern?
Understand- what matters to each of us?	Look beneath positions to identify concerns, needs, priorities, or hopes	What is important to the family? the school team?
Imagine- what could we try?	Brainstorm multiple possibilities before deciding on a solution. Be creative and keep an open mind.	Possible ideas or options?
Decide- where can we find common ground?	Consider the options together and identify an approach everyone can support.	What will we try? Why is this a good solution for everyone?

Keep in Mind...

- ☑ Focus on interests, not position
- ☑ Separate the people from the problem
- ☑ Look for solutions that meet multiple needs
- ☑ Be open to different perspectives
- ☑ Work toward a solution everyone can support



CONTACT US

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