

Compassionate Connections with Parents

Beach Ball Activity

1. **Give an example of a challenging behavior by a parent.** (Select one that is relevant to what your staff have experienced.)
2. **Ask staff to talk in pairs about their initial thought about the potential meaning of the behavior and how they would respond.**
3. **Different people in that family's life are represented by the different color stripes on the beach ball.** Be sure to have a few school staff and multiple adult family/community members represented.
4. **Have six different perspectives on the same family written on colored cards or with different ink colors to match the six colors on the ball.** Toss the beach ball to one person in the family's circle and ask that person to read their description to the group. Continue until all six perspectives are read.
5. **Now ask the pairs to make any revisions in their planned response based on the broader perspective.**
6. **Discuss as a whole group.** Did insight into the family change your response? How? What, if anything will you need/would like from others in or outside of the school to make a positive connection with this parent?

