Creating an Accepting Environment for ALL Families

Using this tool in small groups with colleagues, discuss one or more of the following suggestions on how to create an accepting classroom and school environment. Then write a plan to implement them in your parental involvement plan.

Valuing Diversity in the Classroom and School:

- Treat all families with respect. Listen carefully to all families. Every family member has the right to be heard.
- Recognize that families have different learning styles. Vary the way you offer information so that all families can participate.
- Provide opportunities for your families to work in diverse groups.
- Don’t ignore conflicts when they surface. Inaction is a sign of approval.
- Be a role model. Give families the chance to see that all of us struggle with issues. Help families develop strategies for dealing with uncomfortable situations.
- Create a classroom environment that is family-friendly, casual, intimate and is reflective of the cultures and languages it serves.
- Welcome both critical and positive feedback from parents utilizing a code of ethics that shows respect and good listening habits while allowing an “agree to disagree” agenda.

What I Can Do to Help Create a Classroom and School that Value Diversity:

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2.)  
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3.)  
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