

Accessible Version

# Welcome Back Package: Family Engagement for 'Ohana 2020

Hawai'i Statewide  
**FAMILY**  
ENGAGEMENT CENTER



Prepared by:  
The Hawai'i Statewide  
Family Engagement Center

# Introduction

*This 'Ohana Engagement guide is designed to provide a foundation to support your child's learning and connect with the school, in this new learning landscape.*

*Use the following with your family to support and strengthen the three spheres of influence that contribute to student success: Family, School, and Community.*

- High Impact Core Practices
- Parenting During a Pandemic Webinar Series
- At- Home Learning Toolkit

-The [Hawaii Statewide Family Engagement Center](#)

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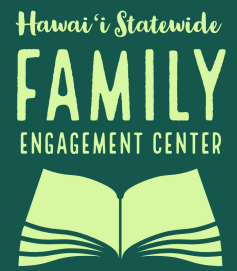
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# Family Engagement 5



## AT A GLANCE

Core Practice 1 - First Phone Call: Building a Partnership with Teachers

Core Practice 2 - Virtual Assistance

Core Practice 3 - The Big 3: What parents and families should ask

Core Practice 4 - Social and Emotional Resiliency

Core Practice 5 - Parent Profile for Student

Adapted from: Mapp, K. L., Carver, I., & Lander, J. (2017). *Powerful partnerships: A teacher's guide to engaging families for student success*. Scholastic.

# Core Practice 1: First Phone Call

## Building a Partnership with Teachers

The first phone call establishes a powerful and lasting impression that encourages families to engage. It is a great opportunity to set the tone for relationship building and demonstrates your commitment to connecting outside of discipline issues. It is important that the initial contact is positive to demonstrate to teachers that you value their insight on your child(ren) and expect engagement throughout the year. This is also helpful in case you may need to inform the teacher in the future that your child(ren) is/are struggling.

### Tips

- Communicate essential information regarding your child (routines, access to internet/devices, health, interests, etc. )
- Share the best time to reach you and method of communication (email, cell phone, text, etc.)
- Exchange contact information (email, home phone, cell phone) with your child's teacher and counselor.



# Core Practice 2: Virtual Assistance

## Getting your child set up to learn on-line

### Tips



1. Visit your child's school website for information on Distance Learning Support.
2. Identify the online platforms your child's teachers are using.
3. Discuss the student workload and expectations of your child with each teacher.
4. Consult your child's school counselor to learn about the school resources and services available to support your child's academic progress.

## Distance Learning Resources

**(Special Education Resource)**

[A Parent's Guide to Virtual Learning:  
4 Actions to Improve Your Child's Experience With  
Online Learning](#)

[Distance Learning Resource Center,  
Education- Reimagined](#)

# Core Practice 3: The Big Three

## What Parents and Families Should Ask

Schools may schedule a variety of events that provide families an opportunity to review and discuss what students are learning.

Back to School, Open House, and Parent-Teacher Conferences are excellent occasions to connect with teachers and actively engage in your child's education.

Families who ask the three following important questions obtain essential information to support their learner at every grade level:

- 1** What should my child know and be able to do by the end of the semester/year?  
(Primary Objectives)
- 2** What does my child know now?
- 3** What can I do at home to help my child achieve these primary objectives?

## School Conference Resources

- [10 Tips to Make the Most of Your Parent-Teacher Conference](#)
- [Parent Teacher Conference Worksheet](#)



## Core Practice 4: Social and Emotional Resiliency

Building resilience – the ability to adapt well to adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats or even significant sources of stress – can help our children manage stress and feelings of anxiety and uncertainty. However, being resilient does not mean that children won't experience difficulty or distress. Emotional pain and sadness are common when we have suffered major trauma or personal loss, or even when we hear of someone else's loss or trauma.

### Adapting to Life's Situations

Emotional awareness identifies the behaviors, actions, and thoughts that build resilience at home. American Psychological Association, [\*Building your Resilience\*](#), discusses the roadmap to developing resiliency within the family.





# Core Practice 4: Social and Emotional Resiliency

## Supportive Resources

[The Search Institute](#) provides a wide range of resources to explore topics that strengthen family relationships.

For more information visit [Bringing Out the Best in Your Family](#).

We all can develop resilience, and we can help our children develop it as well. It involves behaviors, thoughts and actions that can be learned over time.

Here is an [informational video](#) (CASEL.org) that provides parents' information about how you can support your child's social and emotional development.



# Core Practice 5: Parent Profile for Student

The Parent Profile for Student is a great communication tool that allows parents to share basic data about their child, as well as specific information that supports enhanced or customized learning. The Profile is very useful during transitions to new grades or a new school. It is also especially helpful for students who may require IEPs or other curriculum modifications.

Educators can benefit greatly from The Profile by gaining a fund of valuable student and family knowledge that can be used to collaborate and connect families to student learning goals. The point of the tool is to ensure the centering of the child and their needs.

The contents of this document are completely optional. Discretion or care should be taken when sharing the, “Parent Profile for Student,” electronically.

[Parent Profile for Student](#)  
(and [Accessible Version](#))

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## PARENT PROFILE FOR STUDENT

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# Parenting During a Pandemic

## Webinar Series

The Parenting During a Pandemic FREE webinar series covers topics that families in the Kailua-Kalāheo complex area expressed interest in during this unprecedented time.

These webinars were offered through a collaboration between the Kailua-Kalāheo Complex Academic Office and the Hawai'i Statewide Family Engagement Center.

### Topics include:

- Trauma Informed Classrooms and Practices for Families and Communities
- Sex Trafficking Outreach and Prevention Program (STOPP)
- Parenting a Strong-Willed Child
- Recognizing Signs of Depression in Children and Teens
- Strategies to Support Children's Resiliency during Uncertain Times
- Strategies to Manage Stress and Anxiety (coming soon!)



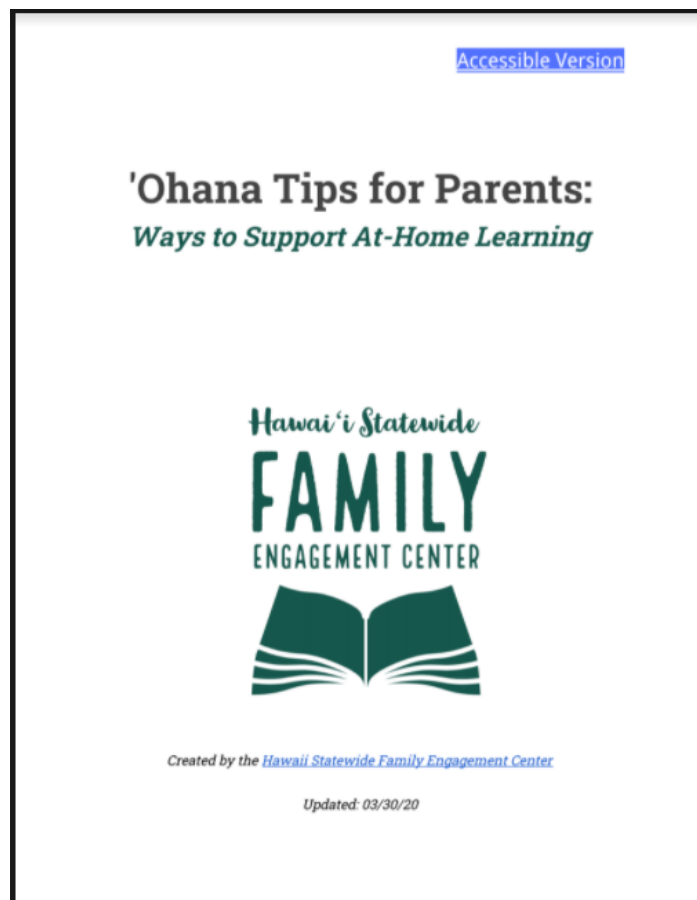
Visit [this site](#) to register for upcoming webinars and view recordings of the presentations, the presenter's slideshow, handouts, and additional resources on the webinar's topic.

# At-Home Learning Toolkit

As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus), student learning has shifted from in-classroom to at-home learning.

Families, use this guide to help you and your child be ready to learn at home. You'll find tips to get you set up for at-home learning, literacy and reading, and homework. It also has resources for online learning.

What works for your 'ohana? Tag us (@hiSFEC) on Twitter with your at-home learning tips!



# ABOUT THE HAWAII' STATEWIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTER

The University of Hawai'i's Center on Disability Studies was awarded grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education to establish the Hawai'i Statewide Family Engagement Center (HSFEC) to implement programming that supports the implementation and enhancement of systematic and effective family engagement policies, programs, and activities that lead to improvements in student development and academic achievement.

We plan to accomplish this by providing evidence-based programs, activities, strategies, and technical assistance that are designed to achieve systemic, integrated & sustained family engagement from birth through Grade 12 in Hawai'i.

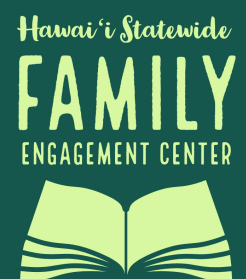
See our website (<https://cds.coe.hawaii.edu/hfec/#>) for more information about **Family Strategies for Learning, Resources and Downloadable Tools**, and **Professional Development Opportunities for Educators**.

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