



# Apoyando a las Familias que Hablan Español

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INSIGHTS AND TIPS FOR EFFECTIVELY SUPPORTING SPANISH SPEAKING  
PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

# Agenda

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- Introductions
- Cultural Barriers Faced by Spanish Speaking Families
- Tips and Strategies for Working with Spanish Speaking Families
- Support Events and Activities
- Questions (as time allows)
- Contact Information

# Cultural Barriers Faced by Latino Families

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- Abraham's Story
- **Cultural component and integration:** the families have many barriers to receiving AND understanding their child's diagnosis. *Where to go, with whom and how to talk with the professionals about their concerns?*
- **Language and interpreter request:** The biggest concern is to find the right interpreter for whatever appointment the family may have. We must consider to request an interpreter who has expertise in medical or special education interpretation, or spend time with the interpreter ahead of time so they can prepare. Without preparation, interpreters often jump in with opinions, encouragement or judgment for the parents when it's not appropriate.
- **Immigration or legal status:** Important for us to not have assumptions or jump to conclusions about the immigration status of Latino families. Like the individual disability, all individuals have different situations and in our culture is not professional if we come with assumptions. Also, we should avoid asking about immigrant status unless it's relevant to our work. If it is relevant, we must be highly sensitive in the way that we ask that question.
- **Inclusive language and community:** We encourage all people to take in consideration to learn and use appropriate language that helps all to establish the relationship with community. Considered that aspect that can give us the benefit of be more inclusive.

# Tips and Strategies for Working with Latino Families

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- Caroline's Story
- Take time to understand the family's backgrounds and preferences. Know how your Latino community self-identifies and use that information when you are supporting them.
- Ask the Latino community you work with about issues that are relevant to them.
- Use a needs assessment to identify the barriers that discourage families from accessing education, health, and social services.
- Develop relationships with the Latino community by building on their cultural strengths.
- Partner with respected community organizations and civic community leaders that already serve Latinos.
- Use the most appropriate way of communication depending on the circumstances: Face-to-face, calling or texting, Latino TV and radio programs. Take advantage of social media, especially when reaching younger Latinos.
- Consider to collect the family feedback when you are using the service of an interpreter to ensure the quality of the service.
- Incorporate appropriate cultural elements: When using graphic elements on your website, in brochures, or on social media, make sure that they are relatable to the Hispanic audiences you intend to reach.
- Ensure your materials are reading-level appropriate for the specific community you serve.

# Tips and Strategies for Working with Latino Families (continued)

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**If you are planning events for the Latino community, please consider:**

- Create an environment that makes them feel at home.
- Have childcare and food available.
- Always have Spanish resources available.

**If you are a school staff member:**

- Recognize Spanish Speaking parents' achievements and contributions.
- Empower the most involved parents and caregivers.
- Use student events as a chance to connect with Latino families.
- Celebrate Latinx culture in your classroom and school.
- Engage parents and caregivers as community partners.

# Arc of King County Support Opportunities

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## Information and Community



**Facebook**  
[P2P Spanish Speaking Families](#)

## Support and Connection



**Charlemos entre Amigas**  
June 9<sup>th</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020  
6:00-8:00 pm  
Facilitator: Patty Gonzalez  
Meeting ID: 899-0011-7068  
Password: 945084

## Education And Learning



**Latino Family Gatherings**  
June 13<sup>th</sup> and June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
10am-12pm  
Facilitator: Sandra Urite  
Meeting ID: 842-6954-6366  
Password: 709401

# Contact Us

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## **The Arc of King County**

Information and Family Support

**English:** 206-829-7053 OR [Ask@arcofkingcounty.org](mailto:Ask@arcofkingcounty.org)

**Spanish:** 206-829-7030 OR [Preguntas@arcofkingcounty.org](mailto:Preguntas@arcofkingcounty.org)