

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT LEARNING SERIES

NEWSLETTER *for Champions*

Founder's Focus: *Engaging Families in Accelerating Learning for Diverse Students*

Effectively supporting the heterogeneous needs of diverse learners in the classroom can be challenging. This challenge is well documented: it is clearly communicated in national studies of teachers. I saw it firsthand when providing school psychological services, and I see it today as Family Engagement Lab works closely with teachers and schools.



It is clear that we need to do more and *do better* at supporting teachers who work with diverse learners each day. One way to do this is to help teachers engage and collaborate with the other key adults in their students' lives: parents and caregivers. Parents can play a big role in supporting teachers by reinforcing classroom learning at home—and their engagement in a child's learning has consistently been shown to make a positive difference on student outcomes. Moreover, diverse learners have diverse needs, and parents know their children best. They know their child's motivators and their barriers; they help their children practice the skills outlined on their IEPs; they support their child's language development every day. Partnering with the "experts" who deeply understand their child's unique strengths and challenges can help teachers ensure more diverse learners reach their potential.

As a school-psychologist-turned-family-engagement-advocate, I've had the unique opportunity to identify, design, and study innovative technology solutions like FASTalk that help teachers activate the power of families to support the success of diverse learners. It will take time and effort to accelerate the learning of all these students, but the process will be less challenging and more children will benefit when parents and teachers collaborate.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth O'Bryon
Co-Founder, Family Engagement Lab

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Family Engagement Lab in the News

- [FASTalk featured as a top digital learning strategy by teacher in Oakland, CA \(eSchools News\)](#)

News You Can Use: Engaging Families to Support Diverse Learners

- [The Case for a Two-Generation Approach to Educating English Learners](#) (Center for American Progress)
 - [Connecting with English Learner Families: 5 Ideas to Help Schools](#) (EdWeek)
 - [What We've Learned: Administrators share advice for engaging families](#) (Education Drive)
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Share the Good News

As champions of family engagement, we encourage you to become a part of the conversation by sharing one of the following posts on social media, or using them as inspiration for your own unique post.



Accelerating the learning of students with diverse needs takes time and a lot of support. Parents can play a big role in supporting teachers in this work by reinforcing their child's learning at home. Read more [here](#).



.@educationweek's recent blog post calls on schools to help EL parents become better advocates. We couldn't agree more! Visit www.familyengagementlab.org to find out how FASTalk can help your school connect with families in over 100 languages.



School leaders and teachers who are struggling to get parents, especially non-English speaking parents, engaged in student learning should look to @FamilyELab for support. FASTalk's curriculum-aligned text messages can be sent in over 100 languages. www.familyengagementlab.org

Contact Us

Have questions? Email us at felcommunications@fastalk.org.

Don't forget to **follow us on social media** for the latest tools and resources to support family engagement.

