

Inspired Participation Concurrent Session

Q: What Does Inspired Participation Mean to You?

- Problem solving
- Being helpful & volunteering
- Growth- new life and ideas
- Networking- share best practices; build networks
- Education as a tool
- Outreach
- Identifying what your members are good at
- Participation & collaboration
- Partnership
- Being responsive to needs of families
- Council is a sounding board for ideas

How to Attract New Members

- Promotion: banner; logo; branding
- "Permission to contact form"
- Name tags/business cards
- Think beyond meetings: use email to keep in contact with families
- Welcome letters/gifts
- Use a survey to ask what families want to know/work on (helps give a Council focus)
- Social events
- Bulletin board: post contact info for Council, meeting minutes
- Display table at events with raffle

Tips & Techniques for Keeping People Engaged

- Take on a small project
- Break down work into smaller pieces e.g. tasks vs. roles
- Ensure Council meetings are a safe space to share personal concerns and challenges
 - Confidentiality is essential: discuss what this means and your expectations
 - Peer support for members
- Open communication & clear expectations
- Ask for members' 'burning questions' to ensure that issues/questions are addressed
- Approach matters! Keep meetings positive and productive
 - Be proactive
- Lead by example: model the behaviour you expect from Council members