

Infant-Toddler Policy Forum



Tips for Engaging Families

When engaging parents to speak at your *Think Babies*[™] Policy Forum, we recommend that you consider the following:

- If possible, engage parents/primary caregivers who think of themselves as advocates and with whom your organization has a strong relationship. If you don't have strong relationships with parents, consider partnering with an organization who does.
- Make sure that all speakers have the support and preparation to feel comfortable in their role. We strongly recommend doing at least one preparatory phone call or meeting.
- In recruiting parent/primary caregiver speakers, be intentional about representing the diversity of the community, keeping in mind race, ethnicity, geography, income, family composition, people with disabilities, and policy issue areas.
- Consider ways that you can make their participation more accessible by offering supports such as transportation assistance and stipends for child care and/or lost wages.