

# Family One-on-Ones

## Jamaica Child Development Center and RISE Colorado

### Aurora, CO



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

Jamaica Child Development Center (CDC) is a preschool in Aurora that serves 240 students from low income families, students of color, students from refugee and immigrant families, and a high proportion of students receiving special education services. In order to best serve their student and family population, Jamaica CDC partnered with RISE Colorado to develop the Family One-on-One program. The goal of this program is help school staff better understand families' strengths, struggles, hopes and dreams related to supporting students' academic and behavioral success.

Jamaica CDC and RISE Colorado have been partners for five years, focusing on increased access to high-quality education for all families, as well as community organizing. The cornerstone of community organizing is the one-on-one relationship building meeting.

To plan and prepare for the initial one-on-one meetings with families, Jamaica CDC and RISE staff co-designed and practiced how to invite a family to a one-on-one meeting, as well as how to host a one-on-one meeting. During the school year, about 35 families participated in the one-on-one meetings. In these meetings, families and school staff shared about themselves, discussed hopes and dreams, and built a relationship focusing on supporting the child.

Families who participated in one-on-ones were more likely to participate and engage in the school and events during the year as well as express concerns and advocate for their children. Families who attended one-on-ones also participated in a parent group that decided to address a school need of access to books in preschool. This group partnered with school staff, the district's Learning Resources Department, and a local foundation to design, build, and secure funding for two mobile libraries that are now operational in the school community.



To evaluate the practice, Jamaica CDC staff took notes during one-on-one meetings and observed engagement practices of families who participated in one-on-ones. Jamaica CDC and RISE staff reflected on the notes and observations and learned that one-on-ones were an effective tool for building relationships that led to increased family engagement. To expand the one-on-one practice, the Jamaica CDC is operationalizing one-on-ones as part of the registration and re-registration process.

Standard 5--Sharing Power