

ABSTRACT

IMMIGRANT PARENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF BARRIERS THAT MAY HINDER THEIR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

The purpose of this research is to explore immigrant parents' perceptions of barriers that may hinder their involvement in the school system. All parents want their children to succeed; however, sometimes immigrant families need extra support and educational opportunities to understand what it takes to be involved with the school system and in their children's educational program. The acculturation process can be overwhelming for immigrant parents because they face many obstacles. The receiving society, which includes the school system, also has a responsibility in welcoming new immigrants. Fortunately, the schools are beginning to recognize that the traditional way of interacting with parents is not successful with immigrant families. This study discusses ways in which the schools can become more approachable and supportive of immigrant families. The literature review and findings of this study reveal that Dialogue Theory, (Platicas) can be an effective way of engaging immigrant families.

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