Training on family engagement is offered to staff who support different program areas, whether it’s day camp, early childhood, or afterschool programs. This ensures all staff, regardless of program area, learn consistent practices when it comes to family engagement.

Request feedback from families.

The YMCA asks for feedback specific to family engagement across its programs. This takes the form of both informal conversations or formal surveys. They also support parent advisory committees—like with their afterschool programs—that offer opportunities for parents and caregivers to voice their opinions and take leadership roles. And on a larger scale, the Y invites community members to serve on their board.

We thank Jane Albin for her input and acknowledge the Y for its comprehensive approach to family engagement. So, how might you enhance family engagement at your organization? What would you need to do this work?