

**From Survive to Thrive – Webinar  
Chapter 2 Program Context and Culture**

**Webinar Chat**

- 12:01:40 From Alissa Repetti Hello All!
- 12:01:55 From Melinda Wills-Stallings: Hello all
- 12:01:58 From Jenna Pettinicchi- PDI Leadership Initiative : Hi Everyone! Jenna Pettinicchi PDI Leadership Initiative
- 12:02:17 From Maria Lundie : Hi all, Stella Lundie, Early Childhood Specialist. Child Care Council of Nassau
- 12:02:48 From Melinda Wills-Stallings: Melinda Wills-Stallings, Regulatory Compliance Manager, Learning Care Group, Northeast Region
- 12:03:32 From Christine Cicero: Christine Cicero Merrick Community Nursery School
- 12:03:42 From Patricia Taggart: Tricia Taggart St. Joseph's Nursery School Babylon
- 12:04:14 From Jenna Pettinicchi- PDI Leadership Initiative : leadershipinitiative.longisland@earlychildhoodny.org
- 12:06:23 From Paula Pepper Robinson: Hi, It Pepper Robinson Five Towns Early Learning Center
- Chat Prompt: Share one strength and one need of your program today. What is one of your program's strongest attributes? What is an aspect that requires attention and improvement?**
- 12:20:12 From Paula Pepper Robinson : I need to build a Board. I need new members. I have 4 members who are over 90 years old
- 12:20:27 From Alissa Repetti to: Staff Buy In is a Strength
- 12:20:50 From Christine Cicero: The passion every staff member has for this school and for the children is a strength. Our financial standing due to COVID shut down is our #1 weakness
- 12:20:57 From marissa Dicipinigaitis : a supportive director and that we have access to other programs for children to incorporate specials and enrichment programs. the teachers also have longevity and we have positive relationships with families.
- 12:21:05 From Alissa Repetti: Enrollment is a challenge
- 12:21:11 From Melinda Wills-Stallings: Resources is our strongest attribute. Diversity and Inclusion requires the greatest improvement both in our schools and especially among leadership opportunities.
- 12:21:39 From Paula Pepper Robinson : Strengths of the program - relationships in the community. Staff commitment

12:23:07 From Cristina Medellin : Yes Pepper, having strong relationships with our community is so important

12:32:26 From Alissa Repetti: Be transparent, consistent and maintain open communication

**Chat Prompt: What are some strategies you have used to strengthen relationships or new ways you have adapted in the COVID context?**

12:32:28 From Paula Pepper Robinson : We were able to get gift cards for Stop and Shop and we called families who were out of work and they came by to pick up cards and we were able to help them

12:33:02 From Patricia Taggart : many parent zooms to go over COVID procedures but also to cover curriculum and many policies and procedures that normally would have been shared by teachers . most zooms were power point with time for Q A

12:33:05 From Melinda Wills-Stallings: I have embraced more remote meetings with staff - both 1:1 meetings and focused group meetings to continually assess what their experiences and needs are.

12:33:58 From Christine Cicero: We are a cooperative preschool, and have always had parents in our school on a daily basis. Unfortunately we haven't done any of this at all this year. instead we make weekly videos of photos of the children and send it out to the families, and we have a monthly parent meeting on Zoom.

12:34:45 From Christine Cicero: WE are in the process of making a holiday cookie cookbook in place of our traditional cookie exchange.

12:35:10 From Paula Pepper Robinson : We also allowed families to enroll their children part time which we usually don't do.

12:35:10 From Christine Cicero: I can't wait!! Recipes are looking delicious!!

12:36:16 From Paula Pepper Robinson : And we found that quickly the two day a week child and their family felt safe to return full time

**Chat Prompt: What strategies and methods of communication do you use with staff and families that ensure your interactions are meaningful and reciprocal?**

12:38:41 From Patricia Taggart : this year we are trying everything we have a parent portal for immediate contact email and more phone contact

12:38:46 From Melinda Wills-Stallings : surveys prior to meetings to assess what questions families and staff have and what information they want/need.

12:39:00 From Patricia Taggart : unfortunately without gather as a staff, a lot more emails

12:39:36 From Alissa Repetti : General Check Ins

12:39:50 From Christine Cicero: We are a small enough school that we can discuss issues almost daily. Not all staff members are here every day, so we have ZOOM total staff meetings. But pretty much on a daily basis we communicate

12:40:00 From Patricia Taggart : yes definitely more check ins with staff 1-1

12:40:21 From Melinda Wills-Stallings: in accordance with covid physical distancing guidelines we have moved to remote zoom staff meetings which have been so great to allow staff to express themselves and be heard

12:41:38 From Paula Pepper Robinson : We have meetings with each teaching team and each morning I check in with each staff to check the "temperature". Sometimes I see that a staff member is off and I invite them to talk.

**Chat Prompt: How would you describe your program's physical and emotional environment? How does it make you feel?**

12:42:20 From Paula Pepper Robinson : I am happy when I come to work. I rarely take vacation time because it is a great place to be.

12:42:30 From Patricia Taggart : thankfully once inside the classrooms it seems happy faces and lots of chatter and laughing thank goodness,

12:42:35 From Paula Pepper Robinson : It is a family

12:43:16 From Melinda Wills-Stallings: reflects safety practices we have implemented to assure staff and families we prioritize health. also photo documentation to reflect that nurturing children and active learning is still our focused priority

12:43:29 From Christine Cicero: Agreed 100%

12:43:31 From Paula Pepper Robinson : It is a joy being with the children. They are my zen teachers. They remind me to live in the present

12:43:54 From Cristina Medellin : Yes! Be present in the moment

12:43:55 From Paula Pepper Robinson : and find joy in being alive

12:44:00 From Alissa Repetti : Achieving a safe and healthy environment together with daily diligence--new habits/procedures are working

12:44:12 From Christine Cicero: We just had our PRE-K conferences... parents commented how grateful that we are open, and that their children are so happy to come to school!

**Chat Prompt: How has your program culture and climate changed, recently? What are ways it may have changed for the better? What are ways your climate or culture may have been impacted negatively?**

12:46:18 From Jenna Pettinicchi- PDI Leadership Initiative :  
<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/position-statements/equity>

12:48:19 From Paula Pepper Robinson : It is more difficult to have daily conversations with families.

12:48:49 From Patricia Taggart : lower enrollment :( lots of positive feedback from families they truly appreciate our efforts

12:49:03 From Christine Cicero: Parents are definitely more conscientious with keeping their kids home with runny noses/coughs, etc. While it was a challenge turning everything into "pods", it seems to be working out better, and we will probably keep these protocols in place.

12:49:08 From Paula Pepper Robinson : For the better - We feel like a strong team who are going through this trauma together.

12:49:10 From Melinda Wills-Stallings: In response to covid stress and anxiety elevated quickly and sharply. We added support resources for staff, especially leadership for addressing, and for families

12:49:32 From Patricia Taggart : yes the teachers have mentioned that about lower ratios def more individualized instruction

12:49:34 From Christine Cicero: lower enrollment has affected our finances, but teachers seem to be more comfortable with smaller classrooms

12:52:22 From Jenna Pettinicchi- PDI Leadership Initiative :  
<https://www.earlychildhood.org/pdfs/CoreBody.pdf>

12:52:27 From Paula Pepper Robinson : We are able to spend time with the older children and see and marvel at their growth. The school aged children are all children that attended the Center before entering public school. It is wonderful

12:54:44 From Shannon Cussen: thank you - I have to get to another meeting. have a good day.

12:55:10 From Jenna Pettinicchi- PDI Leadership Initiative : <http://nysaeyc.org/childrens-program-administrator-credential/>

12:56:23 From Jenna Pettinicchi- PDI Leadership Initiative :  
<http://www.earlychildhoodny.org/leadershipinitiative/longisland/>

12:56:33 From Jenna Pettinicchi- PDI Leadership Initiative : <http://www.qualitystarsny.org/>  
<http://earlychildhoodny.org/cdsc/longisland> <https://earlychildhoodny.org/blog/>

12:59:42 From Maria Lundie: Thank you!

12:59:51 From Jenna Pettinicchi- PDI Leadership Initiative :  
<http://Nassauboces.org/domain/1689>  
[Leadershipinitiative.longisland@earlychildhoodny.org](mailto:Leadershipinitiative.longisland@earlychildhoodny.org)

12:59:58 From Jenna Pettinicchi- PDI Leadership Initiative :  
<https://earlychildhoodny.org/leadershipinitiative/longisland/survivetothrive>

12:59:59 From Carin Perino: thank you

13:00:13 From Melinda Wills-Stallings: Great as always. Thank you

13:00:24 From Alissa Repetti : Thank you!

13:00:25 From Cristina Medellin : Thank you all! Have a great weekend

13:00:26      From Melinda Wills-Stallings: Bye

13:00:38      From Christine Cicero: Bye! Happy Thanksgiving! Thanks for all you do!

13:00:51      From Paula Pepper Robinson : Happy Thanks giving

13:12:46      From Jenna Pettinicchi- PDI Leadership Initiative:  
<https://mailchi.mp/earlychildhoodny.org/updates-from-the-ny-early-childhood-professional-development-institute-1146764?e=b30866bb44>