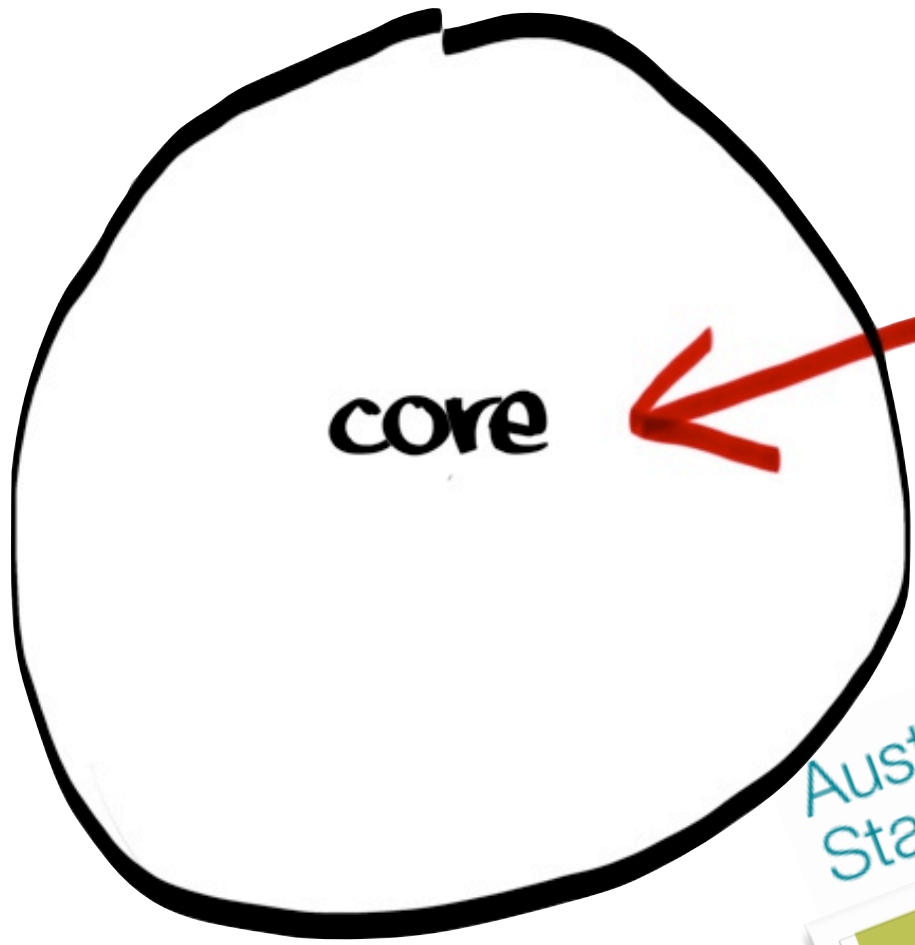




Parent and Community Engagement in Learning and Well-Being

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periphery

core

Australian Professional
Standards for Teachers

Professional Engagement

My School

National Education Reform Agreement

NATIONAL EDUCATION
REFORM AGREEMENT

Australian Government
Department of Education

StudentsFirst

- Teacher quality
- Principal autonomy
- Engaging parents in education
- Strengthening the curriculum

News: Government launches Advisory Group on Teacher Education

Home » Engaging parents in education

Engaging parents in education

We know that parents and carers are one of the most important influences on a child's education. When you are engaged in your children's education, your children are more likely to attend school and to perform better.

Parent engagement is simply the attitudes, values and behaviours that positively influence your children's education outcomes.

We want to encourage you to support your children to get the most out of their schooling, from their first day onwards.

The earlier you become engaged, the better it is for your children.

So how can you be actively engaged in your child's education?

While it's important to stay informed and to be involved in school activities where possible, your engagement is mostly about what you can do at home.

When you set high expectations, talk regularly about school and the value of learning, and encourage positive attitudes and respect for school and teachers, your children perform better.

Other things you can do which have also been shown to have a positive impact are to read with your children, talk about what they are learning, and help them to develop strong work habits.

If you are interested in getting involved in your school community, a

Activity on Twitter

Tweets

- Students First** @StudentsFirstAU 19 Feb
Lifting quality and status of teaching through the Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group puts #studentsfirst ow.ly/tLuxj
- Students First** @StudentsFirstAU 3 Feb
Independent Public Schools - helping build stronger communities and putting #studentsfirst ow.ly/tLxGn Expand
- Students First** @StudentsFirstAU 29 Jan
QLD to spend federal education funding to improve literacy and numeracy ow.ly/t3HX7 Show Summary
- Students First** @StudentsFirstAU 20 Jan
Minister Pyne opinion piece on the review of the



We can make a difference by working together to build safe



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Education Action Plan 2010-2014



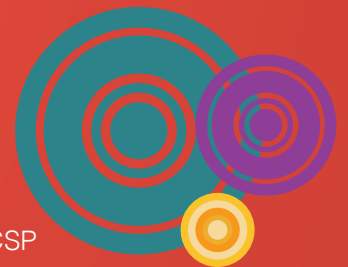
New Paradigm

A row of eleven red silhouettes of people of various ages and genders, representing a diverse group, positioned at the top of the slide.

Children learn everywhere, at any time.

Learning has shifted from school-centred to **student-centred learning**. Working from this stance, there are **many influences** on learning that need to be elevated. **One of the most powerful** of these is **family engagement** in children's learning and development.

[Harvard Family Research Project, 2010]



Influences Affecting Achievement

Outside the
school gate

[85-92%]

The Child

SES

Culture

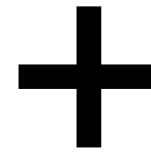
Peers

The Family

The Home Learning
Environment

Parent Engagement

Social Capital



Inside the
school gate

[8-15%]

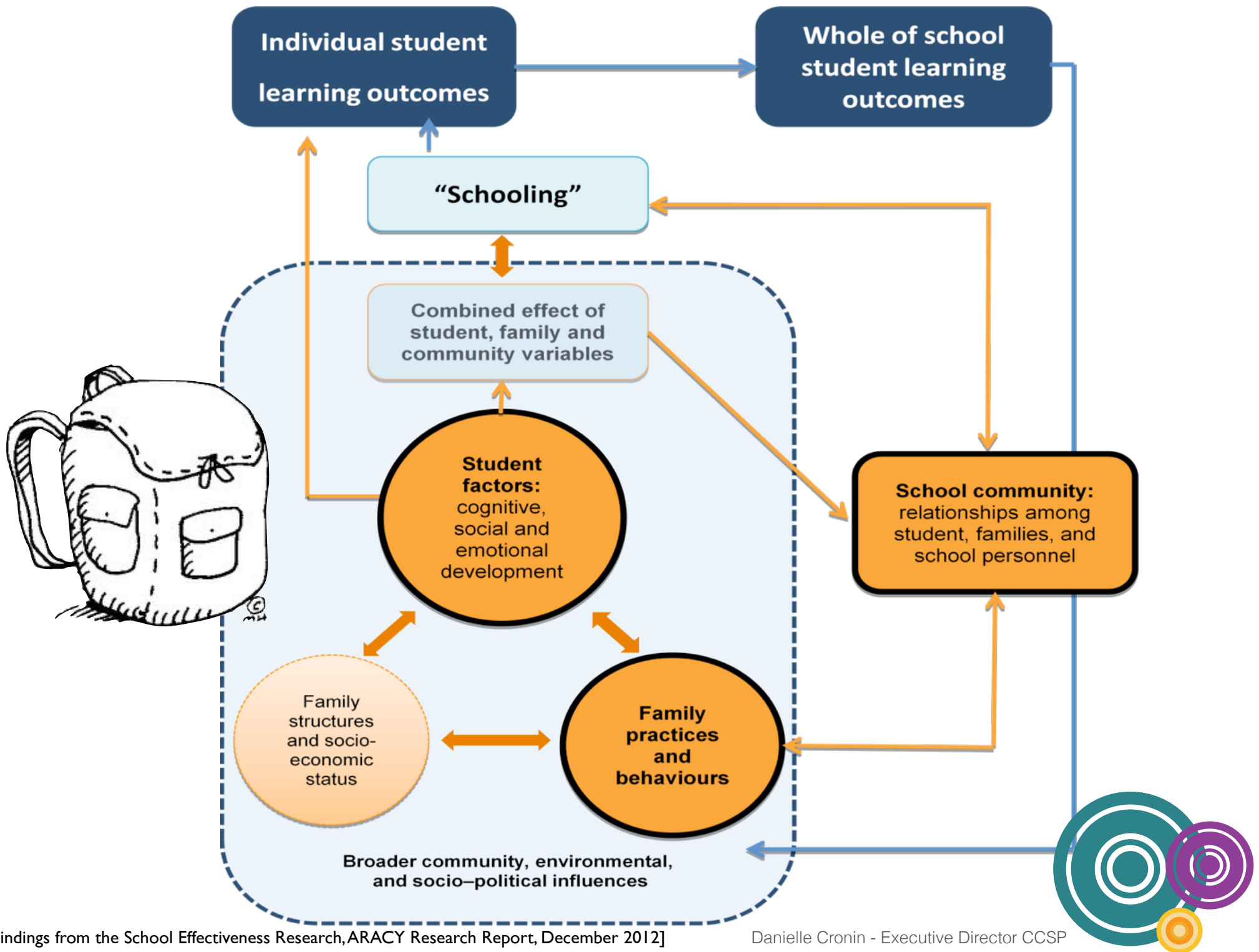
The Teacher!

Curriculum

Leadership

School Climate





[Findings from the School Effectiveness Research, ARACY Research Report, December 2012]

Danielle Cronin - Executive Director CCSP

Adapted from Harvard Family Research Project

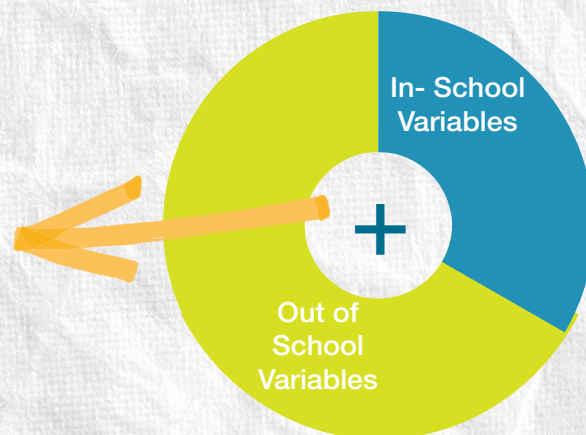
Family Engagement to Support Learning & Well-being



Family Engagement occurs when schools employ intentional and collaborative strategies



to facilitate and promote the learning and well-being of all children and young people



to both nurture and leverage the knowledge, capacities and social capital within families



Moral Support



Positive Attitudes Towards Learning & School



Reading



Talking & Listening



Connectedness

When families are engaged in learning and well-being, students:

Are more likely to attend school - Do better at school and like school more - Feel better about themselves as successful learners - Challenge themselves - Are more engaged in their learning - Stay on at school longer - Are better behaved



Impact on Learning



“Family participation in education is twice as predictive of students’ academic success as family socioeconomic status”

[Epstein: 2005]

“Parental effort has a large effect on student achievement compared with school resources”. Magnitude of effect = extra \$1000 per pupil spending per annum.

[Houtenville and Conway in ARACY Research Report, Dec 2012]

Schools with strong family engagement four times more likely to improve student reading over time, and ten times more likely to improve student learning gain in mathematics.

[Bryk et al. 2010]

Students whose parents regularly read with them, talk about life and school, get them to think critically - tend to score 25 points above peers on PISA - the equivalent of well over half a school year.

[PISA, OECD: 2012]

**Student
Achievement &
well-being**

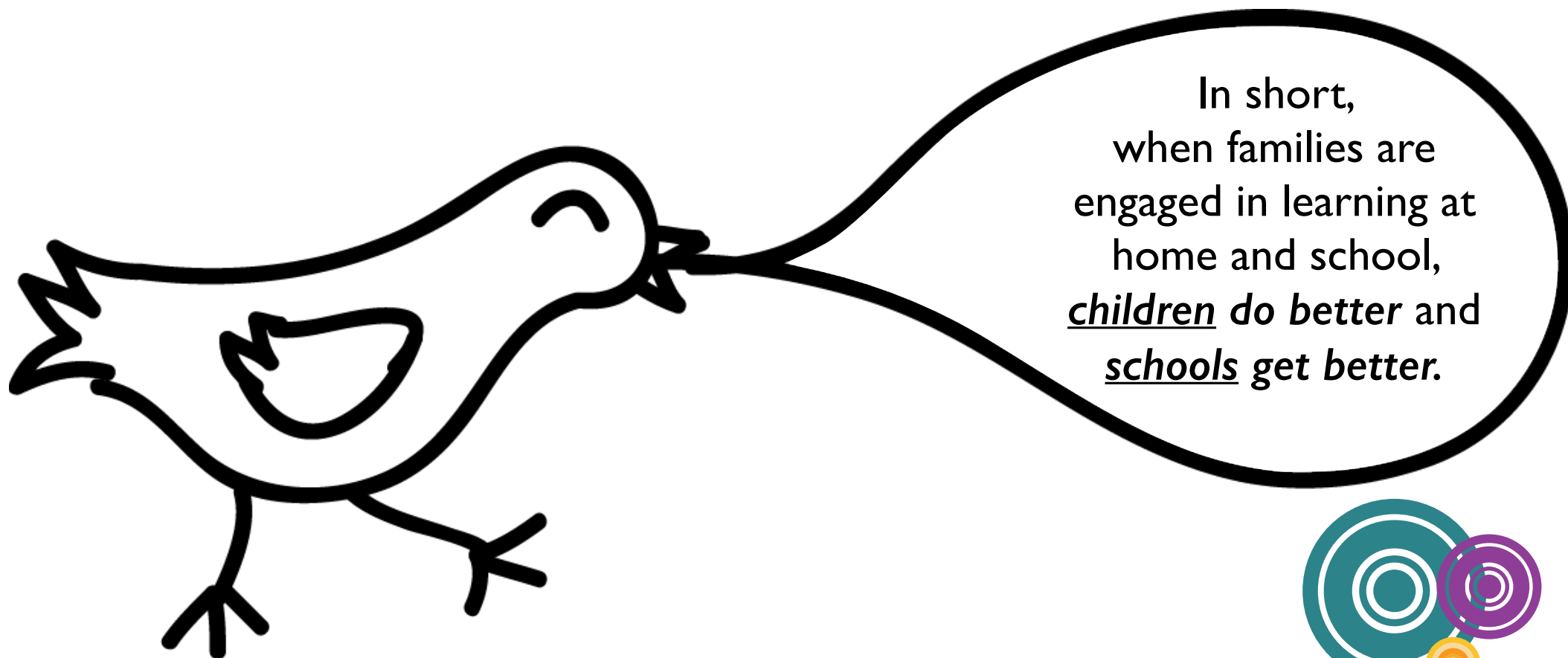
**Teacher
Professionalism
and School Culture**

Social Capital

**Parent confidence
& Skills**

Everyone Benefits!



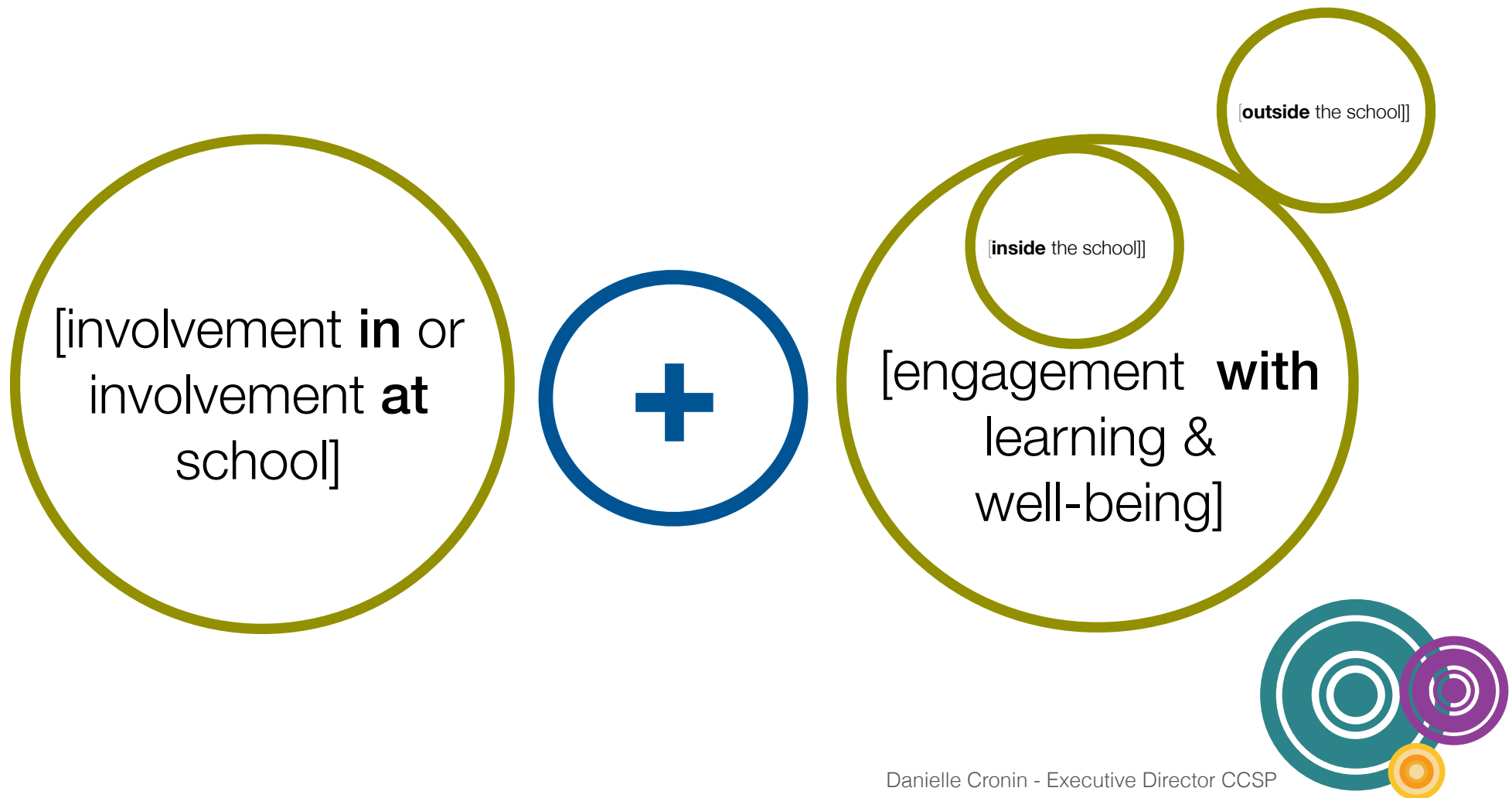


In short,
when families are
engaged in learning at
home and school,
children do better and
schools get better.



Involvement & Engagement in Learning Partnerships

Research has shown that in order to raise achievement parents need to be **both involved in schools and engaged in their children's learning** (Harris and Goodall: 2007)

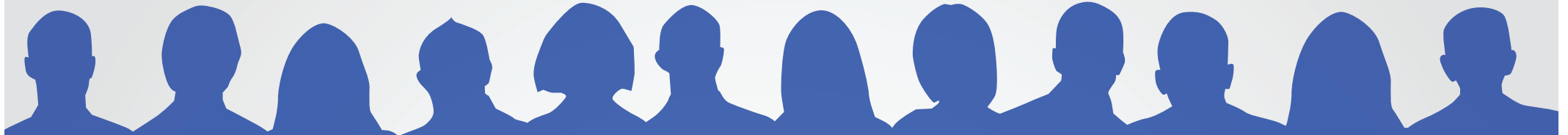


Engagement in Learning requires...

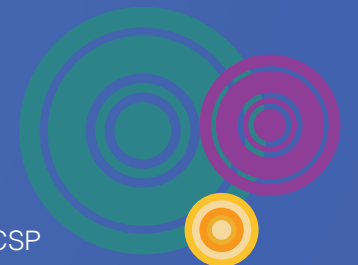
Giving parents the **tools and the confidence** to collaborate around the learning of their children

Providing opportunities for families **to fit together their knowledge and experience** of the child with the teacher's knowledge and experience of the child

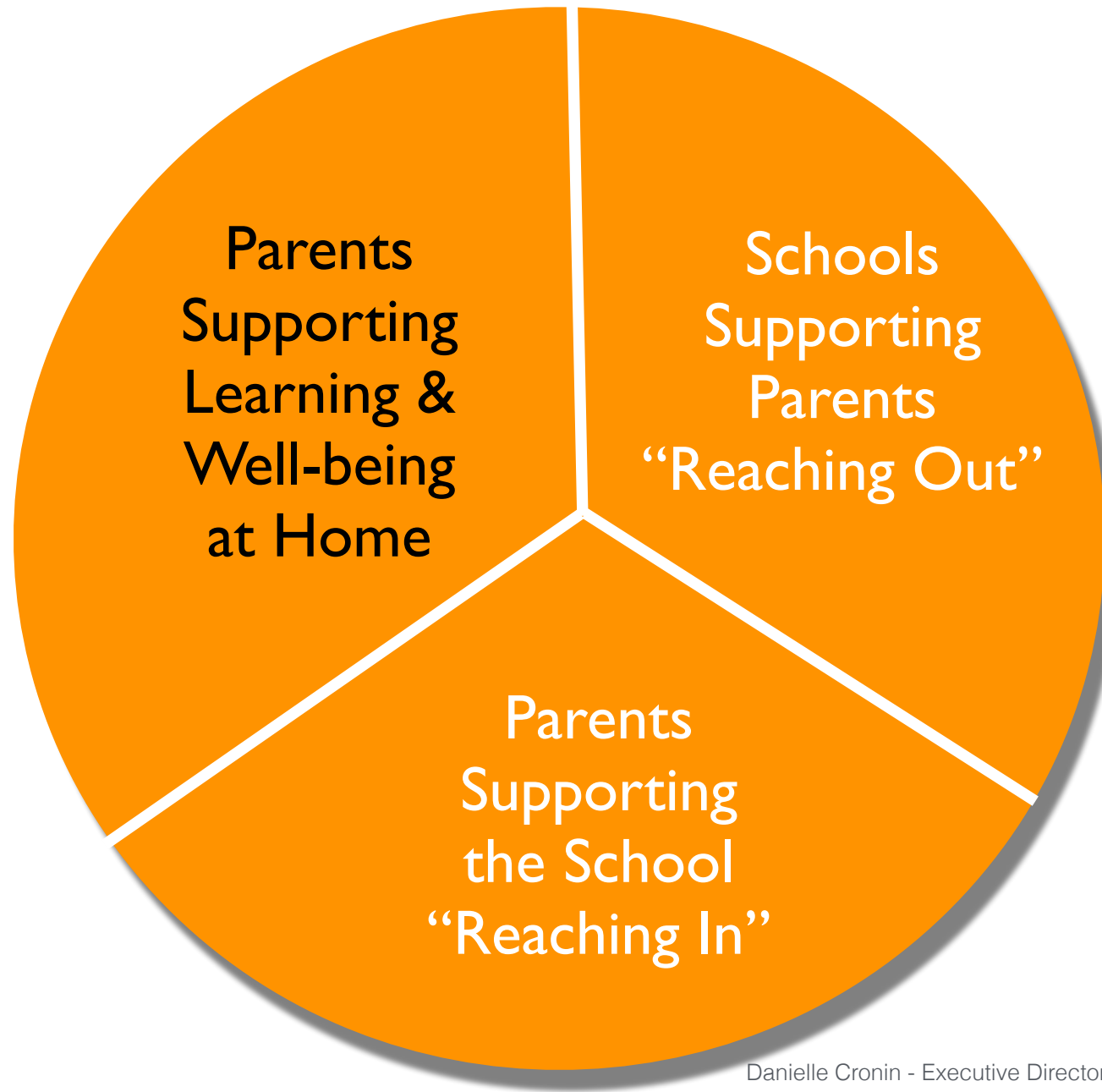





Sharing what
learning and wellbeing practices
look like
feel like
sound like
in your school



Dimensions of Engagement





It's **never too early** for parents to be engaged in learning, and its **never too late**, as children benefit at each and every stage of their lives

The good news is that it **does not require a PhD** or **unlimited hours** for parents to make a difference

The forms of engagement that are most beneficial are **not necessarily those that require the most time or money** on the part of parents



The role of the school

The strongest predictors of effective parental engagement in a school are the programs the school has in place and teacher practices.

Dr Joyce Epstein
Johns Hopkins University

BEYOND RANDOM ACTS



Think about:

- Existing 'programs' that you could use or develop (eg *The Parent Factor in Numeracy and Literacy*)
- Targeted strategies to support particular families or groups of families
- Universal strategies for all families (i.e. Newsletter snippets, parent information nights, intranet, blogs etc)
- How existing practices (eg Parent Teacher Interviews, P&F meetings) can be used more effectively to 'engage' families.

By 'engaged' we mean that families know, understand and have experienced what learning *looks like, feels like* and *sounds like* in your school/classroom and how they can be meaningfully part of it (either at school or at home).

Think about:

Engagement opportunities *for, through* and *about* learning



Action Plan For Engaging Families In their Children's Learning And Development

Identify a school/classroom 'SMART(ER)' goal. This goal can be academic or non-academic in focus:

•

Family Engagement activities to support the achievement of this goal:

Type of Activity	Grade(s)/ Cohort	Target Group Targeted Group of Families/ Whole School Community	Who is Responsible? Who else needs to be involved?	Expected Results
Add pages to outline more activities that support this goal				

Table Adapted from *School, Family, and Community Partnerships, 3rd Edition*, by Joyce Epstein et al. (2010). Melbourne, Vic: Hawker Brownlow Education.



Council of
Catholic School Parents

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Engagement Litmus Test...

How will your work with parents:

- Develop *shared* understandings, aspirations, goals, plans...
- Nurture and leverage skills, capacity, interests, social capital within families and communities?
- Help parents assist children at home?
- BUILD A CONNECTION AND A RELATIONSHIP



