

# Enhancing Family Engagement in Pediatric Care: A Review of Current Literature and Best Practices

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## BACKGROUND

Research continuously shows that family engagement improves patient outcomes, satisfaction, and safety, making it an essential part of high-quality pediatric care. Open communication, collaborative decision-making, and caregiver education are methods to improve family engagement. Families are empowered to take an active role in their child's care through evidence-based practices like caregiver communication boards, family-center rounds, and the use of digital tools.

## PURPOSE

To examine current research on family involvement in pediatric care, identify best practices, and offer practical recommendations for organized family involvement initiatives.

## METHODS

A literature review was conducted focusing on studies related to family engagement in pediatric healthcare setting. There was focus was on evidence-based interventions that foster cooperation, health literacy, and cultural sensitivity when involving diverse family populations.

 **Survey: Families & Caregivers**

Title: Family Engagement in Pediatric Care – Family/Caregiver Survey  
Instructions: Your feedback will help us improve family engagement in pediatric care.  
Please circle the response that best reflects your experience.

Questions:

- I felt included in discussions about my child's care.  
 Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree
- The medical team explained information in a way I could understand.  
 Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree
- I was given opportunities to ask questions about my child's treatment.  
 Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree
- I felt respected and listened to as part of my child's care team.  
 Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree
- Written or digital resources provided were clear and useful.  
 Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree
- Overall, how satisfied were you with the level of family engagement?  
 Very Satisfied  Satisfied  Neutral  Dissatisfied  Very Dissatisfied



 **Survey: Medical Staff**

Title: Family Engagement in Pediatric Care – Staff Survey  
Instructions: Your input will help us understand and strengthen family engagement strategies.  
Please circle the response that best reflects your experience.

Questions:

- I feel confident engaging families in discussions about care.  
 Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree
- Family-centered rounds improve communication with patients and caregivers.  
 Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree
- I have adequate training/resources to support family engagement.  
 Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree
- Family engagement helps improve patient safety and care outcomes.  
 Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree
- Time constraints limit my ability to fully engage families.  
 Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree
- Overall, how effective is your team at involving families in patient care?  
 Very Effective  Effective  Neutral  Ineffective  Very Ineffective



## RESULTS

Engaging families improved clinical outcomes (compliance with treatment & reduced readmissions).

- Facilitated emotional comfort and improves trust among caregivers and clinicians.
- Family-centered rounds improved communication and decision-making.
- Educational materials and digital supports for caregivers enhanced information accessibility.

## CONCLUSIONS

Family engagement is essential in pediatric care, positively influencing both clinical and emotional outcomes. Implementing structured strategies, such as family-centered rounds, digital communication tools, and caregiver education, fosters collaboration and strengthens the healthcare team. To continue the evaluation of family-centered rounds at our hospital, the survey featured in the middle panel was created. Future work should continue to evaluate barriers to implementation of family-centered rounds and strategies for sustainability.

## REFERENCES



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