

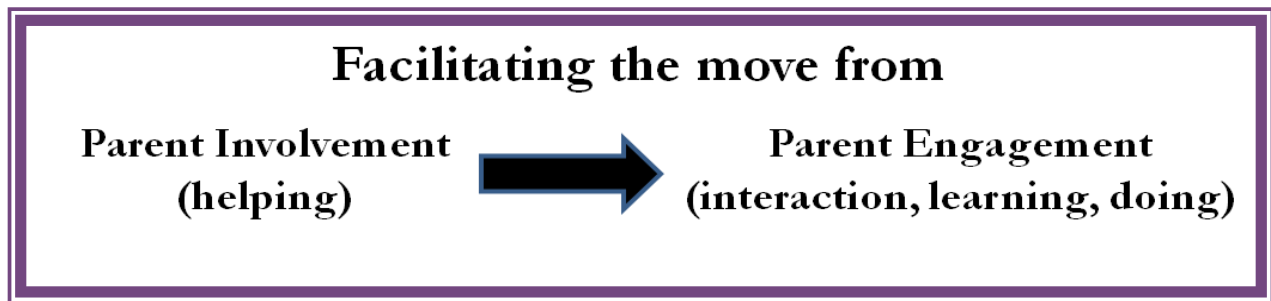


Looking at family programs in a new light



Building on our **Family Learning Project**, the USS Constitution Museum received a three-year **National Leadership Grant** from the **Institute of Museum and Library Services** to study design and facilitation characteristics that result in active, intergenerational engagement, enjoyment, and learning in museum and library programs.

Engage Families: Intergenerational Programs in Museums and Libraries (2013-2016) seeks to uncover the sufficient and necessary conditions for intergenerational learning by acting as a laboratory for experimentation to investigate ideas for intergenerational learning through an iterative prototyping, observation, and evaluation process. The results will be compiled and shared with museum and library professionals to support the development of programs that engage both children AND adults.



INTRODUCING:
A new resource for museum and library professionals

engagefamilies.org



A project of the

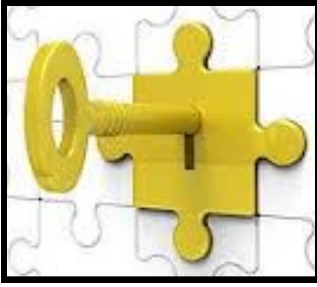


USS Constitution Museum



Funded, in part, by

INSTITUTE of
Museum and Library
SERVICES



Keys to Unlocking Family Engagement

Program Topic

- Distinctive with an institutional/community twist
- Relevant with connections for kids AND adults
- Fun & interesting for all ages



Structure & Activities

- Encourage active participation & FUN
- Set expectations from the get-go
- Encourage conversation
- Multi-outcome
- Appeal to different learning styles
- Activities support content & layer in information
- Opportunities to continue the experience

Setting the Stage

- Comfortable & adjustable for all
- Put kids and adults together
- Variations in materials
- Add content & context to space
- Avoid distractions



Facilitation

- Engage adults consciously & continually
- Model behavior & scaffold adults
- Convey concise & accessible content
- Respect the family dynamic & give them agency
- Be prepared, nimble & have fun!