

How much of a focus is reaching families including adult caregivers?

What does this mean for how you train your frontline staff?

Briefly, who is this staff ? Numbers, roles, parenting experience, etc.

**AT YOUR MUSEUM**

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Museum Professionals:

Training museum professionals to facilitate family learning

- 3 yr IMLS grant
- Partnership between Boston and Chicago Children's Museums

# Assumptions

- Staff readily interact with children
- Staff lack guidelines for involving adults in informal learning
- We should be reacting to our increasingly diverse audience with their variety of cultural styles

# Goals

1. Design a year round curriculum for floor staff and educators
2. Evaluate the family audience before and after the trainings take place

“family” or collaborative

**learning means...**



**Engineering Week, Art Studio: mobiles by family groupings**



**Engineering week: package raw eggs for the egg drop**







10

1. Ourselves as invitation
2. Fun
3. Environment as invitation
4. Nurturing the adult-child bond
5. Respect for families' cultures
6. Exemplary play/learning facilitation
7. Play for all
8. Making learning visible
9. Extending learning beyond the museum
10. Reflective practice

## Products:

- 10 standards of engagement
- 7 interactive modules with reflective practice for floorstaff  
total = 25 hours
- 3 one hr. modules for all Museum staff

# Standards of Engagement

these are based on our beliefs, &  
are the framework for the modules

**1. Ourselves as  
invitation**

**2. Fun**

**3. Environment as invitation**

**4. Nurturing adult-child bond**

**5. Respect for families'  
cultures**

**6. Exemplary play/learning  
facilitation**

**7. Play for all**

**8. Making learning visible**

**9. Extending learning beyond  
the museum**

**10. Reflective practice**

# Outside consultants

- Evaluator: for visitors and staffers
- Adult learning advisor: observes and critiques modules (from Brazelton Institute)
- Editor/writer to provide flow/consistency

# Are these products useful ?

- Reactions
- Suggestions for improvements
- Implementation at small/large museums
- Anything we missed ?