

TRANSFORMING FAMILY INVOLVEMENT INTO REAL ENGAGEMENT

NATIONAL CENTER for
MONTESSORI in the PUBLIC SECTOR

What We'll Discuss Today

- **What does it mean to “follow the family”?**
 - The Study
 - The Programs
 - The Lessons
- **What is family-centered practice?**
 - Empowerment and Capacity Building
 - The Predicament of Parenting
- **What does this look like in Montessori schools?**
 - Schedules
 - Events
 - Language



Crossway Montessori Communities
MONTESSORI FOR SOCIAL CHANGE



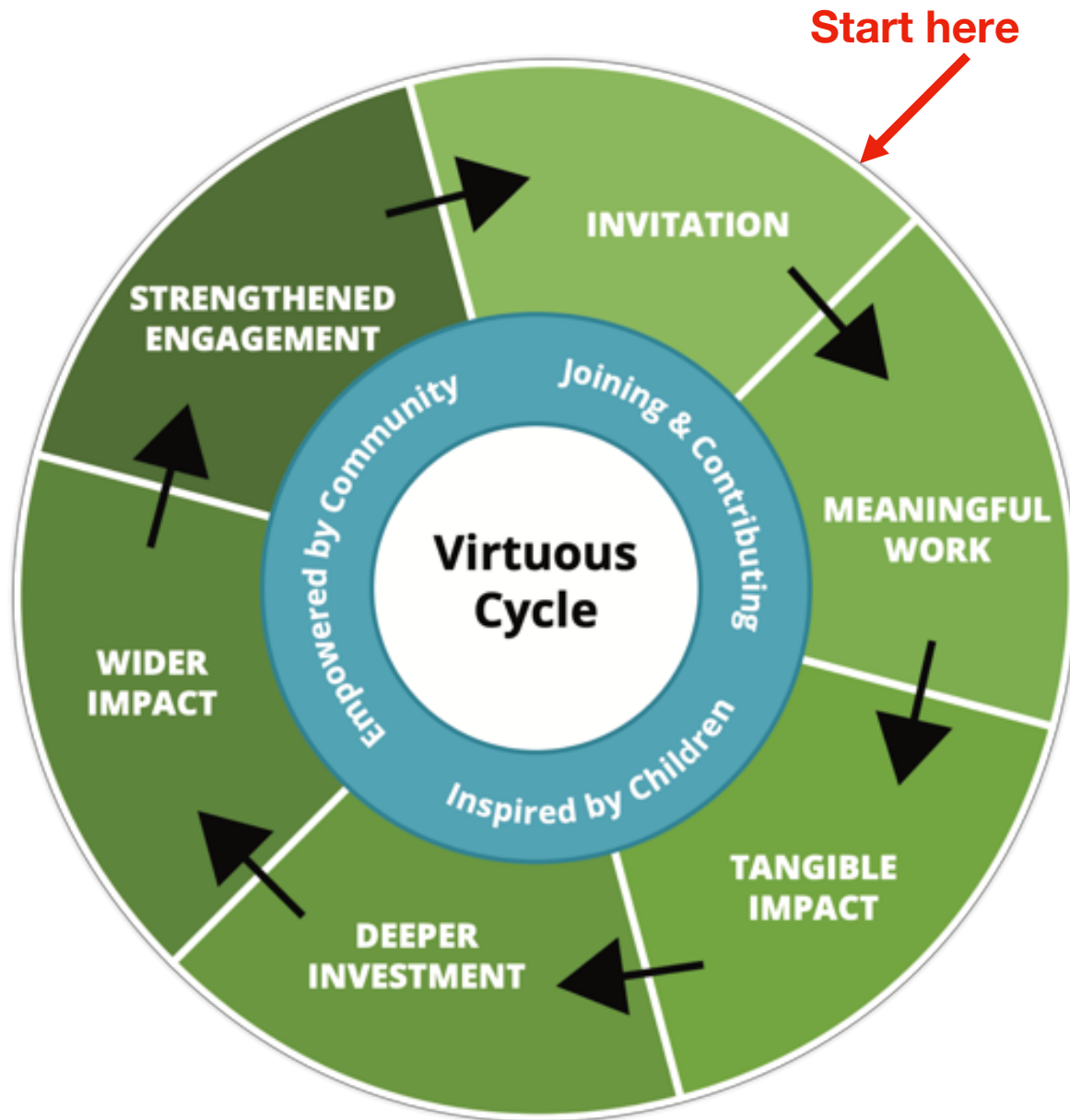
Common Themes

- Focus on continuity — programming from birth through Elementary
- Focus on assets versus deficits
- Focus on prevention — and the potential of the first plane of development
- Intensive focus on the entire family — not just the child

CROSSWAY COMMUNITY



LUMIN



MONTESSORI PARTNERS



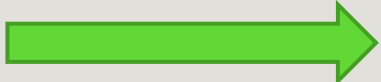

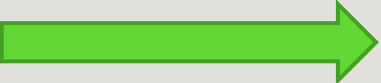
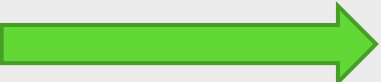
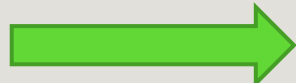
Family-Centered Practice

Core Principles

- Families want what's best for their children; our task is to help them achieve their goals
- Every child is linked to family; we cannot serve one without the other
- A broad range of informal and formal supports are used for achieving family-identified goals
- All interactions with families should be driven by the goal of capacity-building and support rather than compliance
- Montessori principles of respect, human potential, and love guide our practice



SHIFTING PARADIGMS

TRADITIONAL MODELS		CAPACITY BUILDING MODELS
TREATMENT		PROMOTION
EXPERTISE		EMPOWERMENT
DEFICIT-BASED		STRENGTHS-BASED
SERVICE-BASED		RESOURCE-BASED
PROFESSIONAL-CENTERED		FAMILY-CENTERED

AN EXAMPLE: PARENTING CAPACITY BUILDING

PRACTICE MODEL	MAIN FOCUS
PROMOTION	Enhance & promote parenting knowledge and skill
EMPOWERMENT	Create opportunities that support and strengthen a sense of parenting confidence and competence
STRENGTHS-BASED	Building on existing parenting capabilities as the basis for new skills
RESOURCE-BASED	Use a range of resources and supports to enhance capabilities
FAMILY-CENTERED	Engage parents in participatory experiences and opportunities to strengthen and promote parenting knowledge, skills, self-efficacy

Involvement

Require

One-way communication
Focus on policies & procedures
What the school expects of families

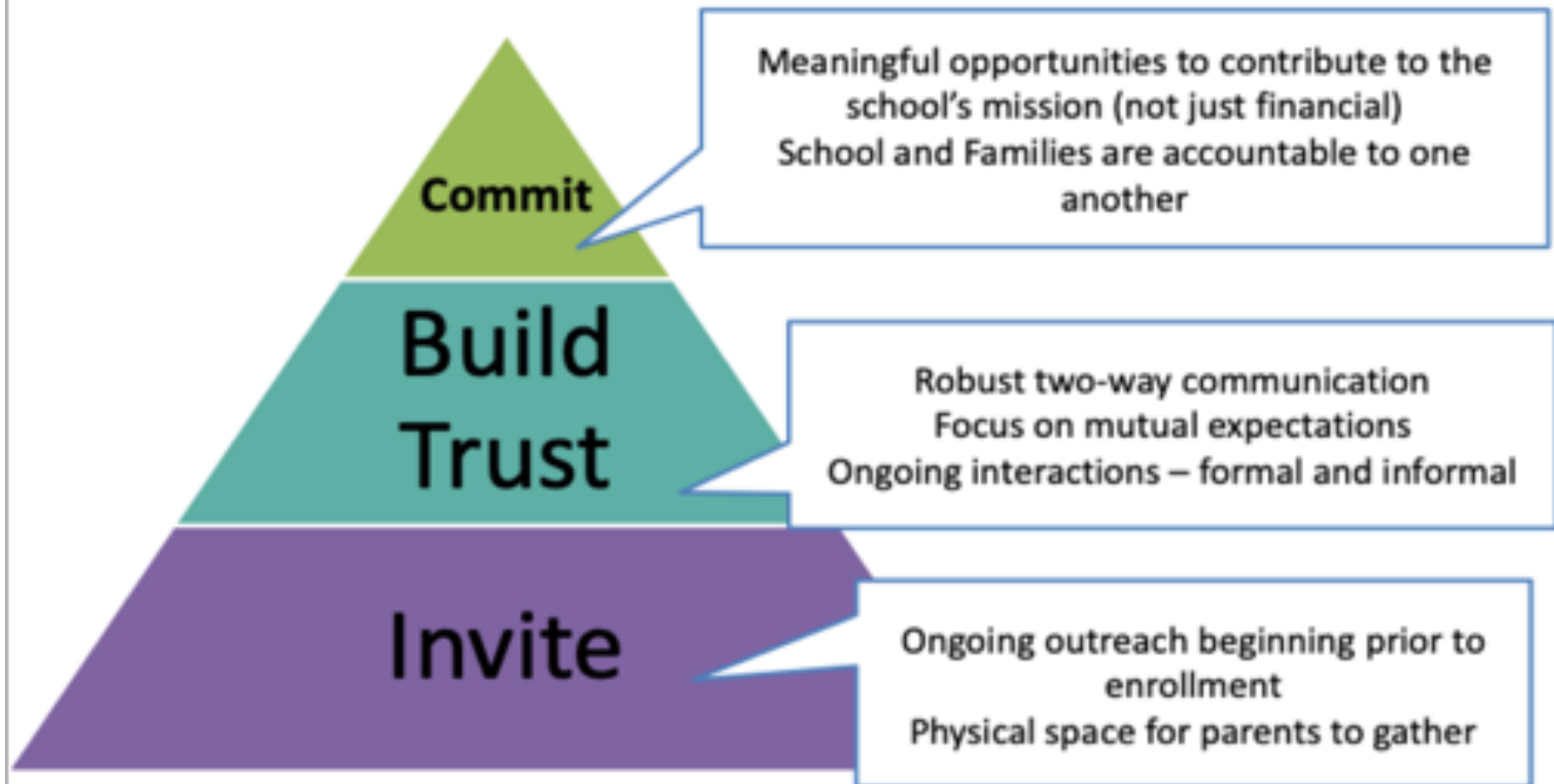
Remediate

Focus on deficits

Monitor

Parents are accountable to school

Engagement



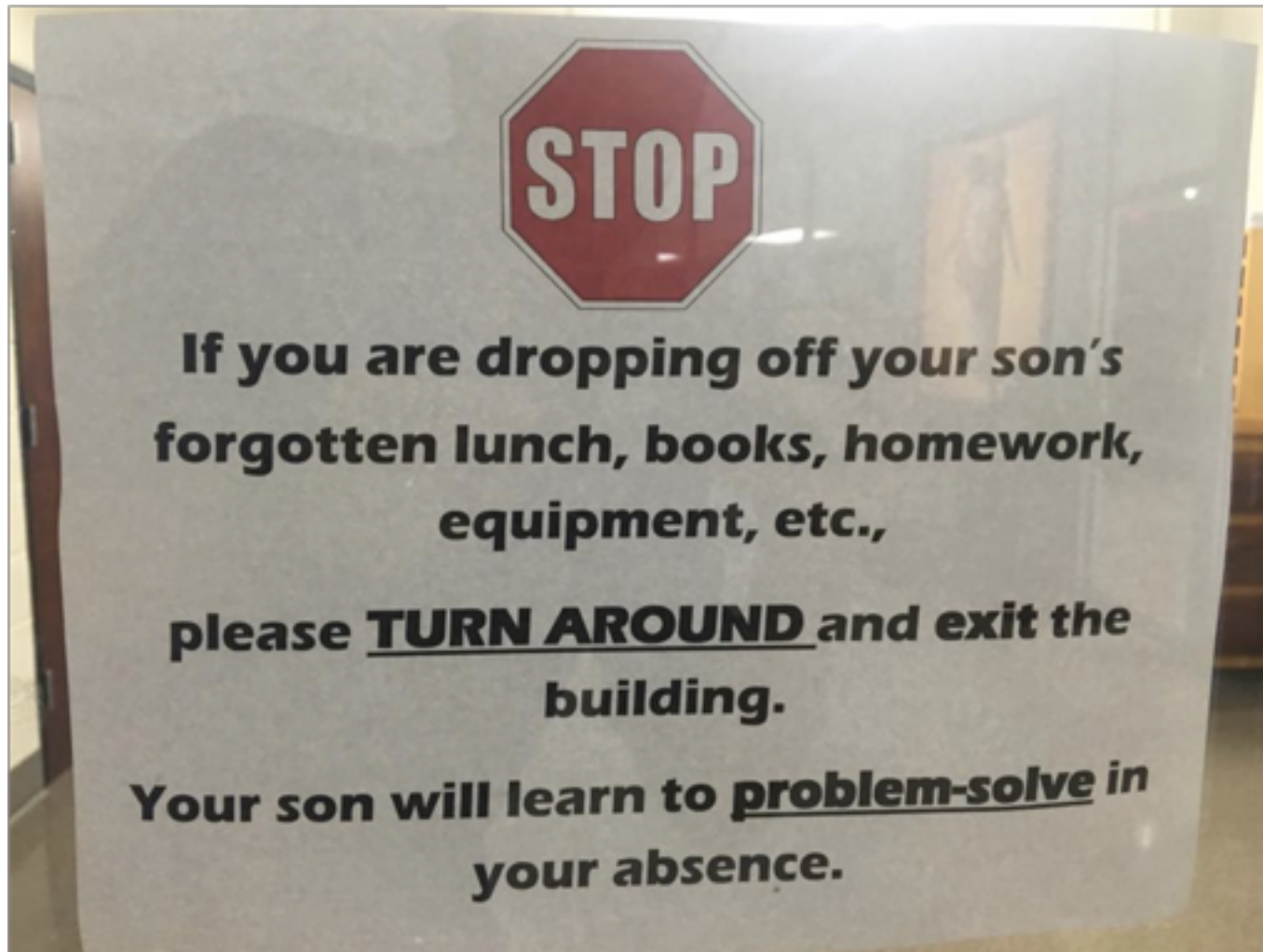
What Should Families be most engaged in? *Their Child's Development*

- **Every interaction is (potentially) an intervention**
 - Car line
 - Open House
 - Conferences
 - Observations
- **Every intervention must be directed toward capacity building** — Families should leave the interaction with a better understanding of their child

Breakthrough Montessori PCS



Challenges to Family Engagement in a Montessori Context



Family Engagement in a Montessori Context



Parents as co-designers of the school environment.

Family Engagement in a Montessori Context

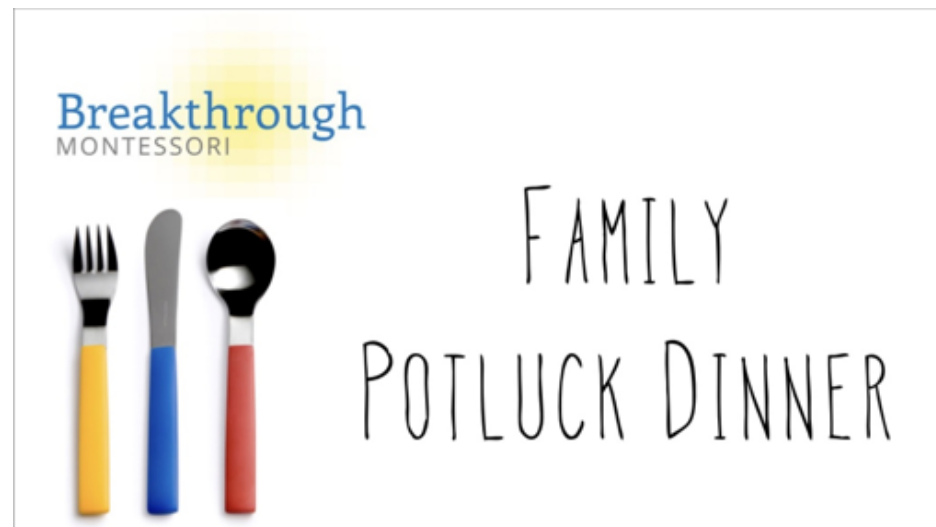


Parents as co-designers of the school environment.



Families as co-designers of children's development.

Family Engagement: School Structures



Building Trust: Connecting with Families

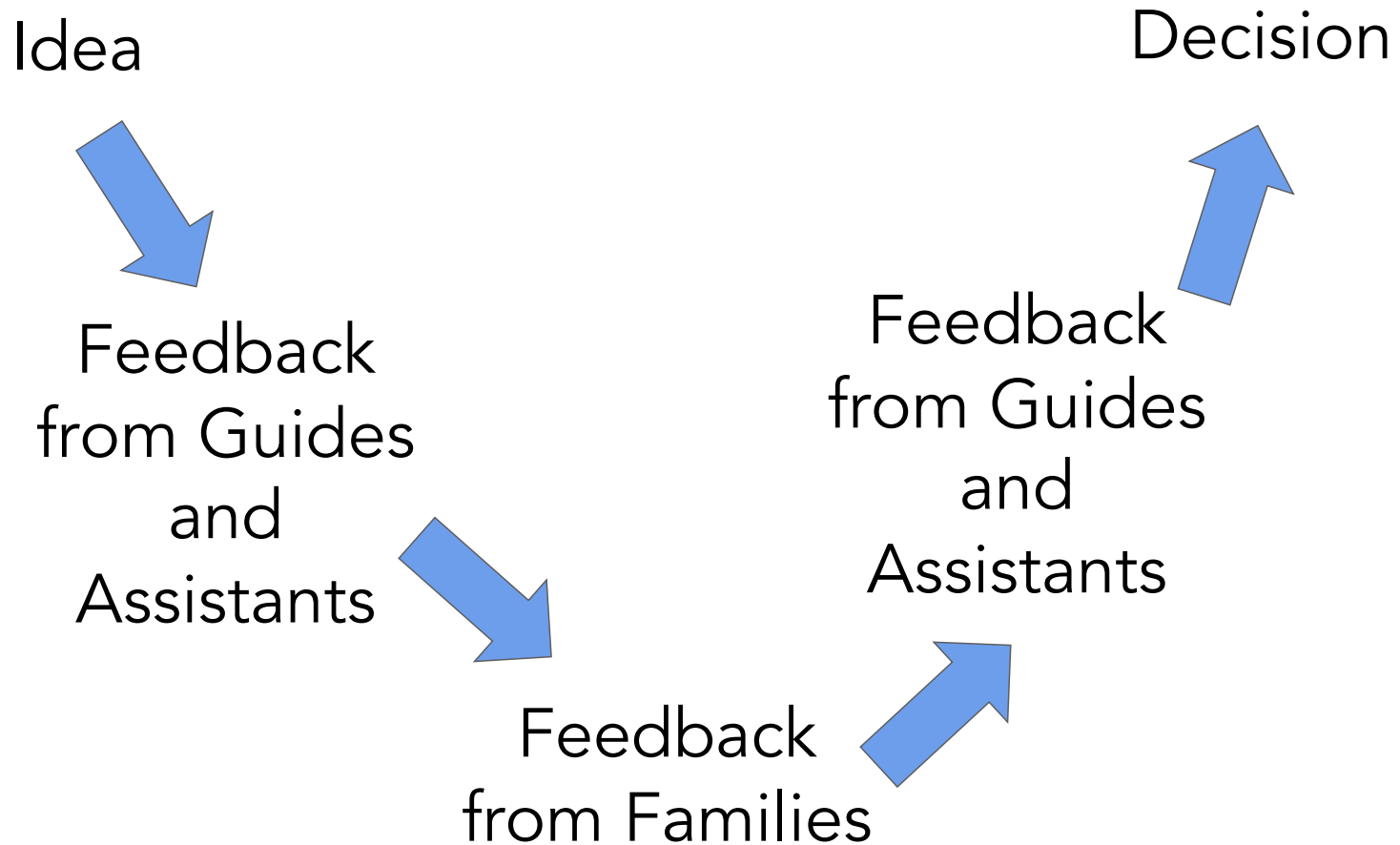


Building Trust: Codified Policies and Procedures

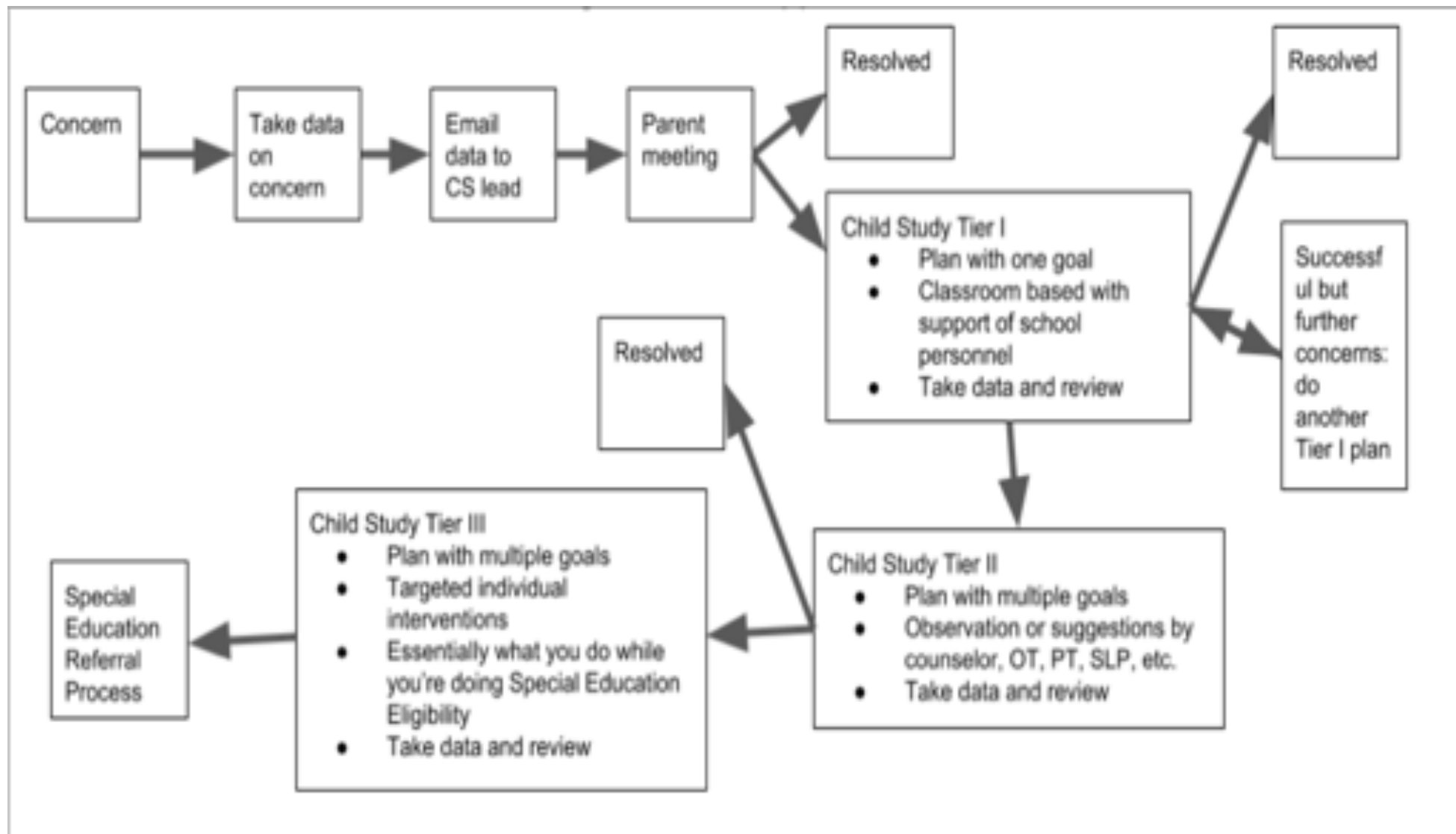
The story of dismissal vs. The story of our new campus



Building Trust: Making New Decisions



Building Trust: Child Study Process



Building Trust: First Experiences with School



Decentralizing Family Engagement



Who is in charge of family engagement?

What do they need in order to be successful?



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