

Group Facilitator Roles and Tasks

Celebrating Families! groups are educational in nature. Group leaders/facilitators provide participants with information and serve as healthy role models and advocates for successful recovery. Groups are designed to develop a safe and consistent environment in which participants can learn:

- The facts about alcohol, tobacco, prescription and illegal drug use
- How alcohol, tobacco, prescription and illegal drugs affect an individual's body, mind, and emotions
- How alcohol, tobacco, prescription and illegal drugs affect children, families and relationships
- How addiction can be faced with courage, creativity and detachment.

Leaders facilitate the learning of skills and ideas – they do not “teach” except in the generic sense that we all teach each other. Leaders help group members learn from themselves, from each other, and from the leaders. One of the best ways to make a point with a group member is to get another group member to share his/her ideas. Learning is primarily done through:

- Participation in role – plays and their debriefing
- Discussion of healthy living skill steps
- Sharing of ideas

People choosing to work with children often say they “love” and “care” for children. Using *love* and *care*, let's look at what skills a group leader needs

L	LISTEN	C	CONSISTENCY
O	OBSERVE	A	AFFIRMATION
V	VALIDATE	R	RESPECT
E	EDUCATE	E	EMPOWERMENT

Group facilitators need to

- Listen to what the participant is saying (verbally and non-verbally)
- Provide positive affirmations
- Provide alternatives
- Provide participants with information they need
- Organize and plan group sessions
- Objectively observe participant's behavior alone and their interaction with other parents, children and peers
- Attempt to understand the participant's perspective
- Respond in a non-judgmental manner
- Allow participant to grow through their pain
- Keep accurate records/charts
- Leave group process and problems in group