Meghan Whelan

Lesson 1.1G Reflection

“Understanding Two-Way Communication with Families”

 We live in an extremely busy world where most often we seem to never have enough time to fit everything into one day. I have learned to slow down a lot since having kids in school and taking the time to look over assignments with them, keep up with their grades, and communicate with their teachers. I am extremely fortunate that my children have always had amazing teachers who have cared about them and their education as much as I do. I think a good way to elicit two-way communication is by asking open ended questions. This way the parents/caring adults must engage more into the conversation instead of just answering with a simple yes or no. In the classroom, not all students feel comfortable sharing in front of the entire class, so in this case you could use the think-pair-share method. Students will have time to gather their own ideas and thoughts, pair up with a partner or group, and then share as a group with the whole class.

 Most importantly, to effectively communicate with anyone, you will want to use plain terms, no jargon. This will allow the person you are communicating with to fully understand the conversation. Also, keep it simple, especially if there are any language barriers. I can speak for myself when I say it is very hard to keep focus when a conversation goes on and on and the same point is being reiterated in different way. Use visual aids and/or translator tools if there is a language barrier. And lastly, invite the family to ask any questions they may have or feel they don’t understand or agree with. I think that when families feel they are able to offer advice on policies that will affect their child, they develop a sense of community as well as a connection with the school.