Family 1:1 Meetings at Jamaica CDC in Partnership with RISE Colorado

Description/Summary
In partnership with RISE Colorado, Jamaica CDC utilized 1:1 (one-on-one) meetings between teachers and families to amplify family engagement and organize a group of passionate families who created a mobile library at Jamaica CDC. The 1:1s last year were so impactful that Jamaica is including them as part of the registration process this year.

1:1s
- Jamaica CDC and RISE staff co-designed and practiced how to conduct a 1:1 meeting.
- During the school year, about 35 families participated in the 1:1 meetings.
- In these meetings, families and school staff shared about themselves, discussed hopes and dreams, and built a relationship focused on supporting their child’s academic success.
- Families who participated in 1:1s were more likely to participate and engage in the school and academic events during the year as well as advocate for their children and share feedback.
- Since the 35 1:1s from Year 1 cultivated strong school-family partnerships, Jamaica CDC decided to systematize 1:1 meetings.
- Now, during registration, over 100 families have already had a 1:1 meeting with school staff.

Learn more about Jamaica CDC and RISE Colorado!
Jamaica Child Development Center
https://jamaicacdc.aurorak12.org/
RISE Colorado
http://www.rise-colorado.org/

Background
Jamaica CDC (a preschool in Aurora, CO) partners with RISE Colorado (an Aurora-based education non-profit) to support family engagement workshops for academic achievement and educational equity. In addition to supporting schools with such programming, RISE Colorado engages families in community organizing. The cornerstone of community organizing is the 1:1 relationship-building meeting. After five years of partnership, Jamaica CDC and RISE decided to pilot family 1:1s in the context of the school.

Mobile Libraries
- In the first year of the program, a small and mighty group of families who attended 1:1s also created and participated in a parent group that decided to address a school need of access to books in preschool.
- This group partnered with school staff, the district’s Learning Resources Department, and a local foundation to design, build, and secure funding for two mobile libraries, filled with multilingual and culturally relevant books, that are now available in the school community!
- The hope is that more 1:1s will lay an even stronger foundation for family voice, engagement, and decision-making at Jamaica CDC in years to come.