Examining Our Own Cognition

Answer the following True or False questions to provide a quick and realistic readiness check for working with parents. For each question, circle T for True or F for False.

1. T  F  Some families do not value education.

2. T  F  Families who are interested in their children’s education will come to school meetings.

3. T  F  Families need to come to the school to be involved.

Use this space to jot down notes about any experiences that have contributed to your answers:
Myth-busting: What the Research Tells Us

1. **Myth:** “They don’t value education.”
   **Research:** Families from all backgrounds report a desire to be involved, want their children to do well in school, and hope that their children will achieve a better life.

2. **Myth:** “If they were interested … they’d come to meetings.”
   **Research:** Parents need to:
   - Feel welcome and invited by the school to participate
   - Feel capable of making a contribution
   - Understand how the U.S. system works
   - Know their role in the partnership with educators
   Hoover-Dempsey & Sandler, 1997

3. **Myth:** “They have to come to school…”
   **Research:**
   - Parent activities at home impact student achievement.
   - Parental aspirations and knowledge of the education system are the most important predictors of college success.
   OECD, 2011, SEDL, 2012