

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

INTENTIONAL INTERACTIONS IN TEACHING



Including All Children

Partnering with Families to Meet the Individualized Learning Needs of All Children

LEARN FROM FAMILIES

Families know their children better than anyone else and have valuable information to share with you.

- Ask families what their children enjoy doing at home.
- Find out if families have any questions or concerns about their children's development or learning needs.
- Ask families how they support their children's special needs. What are some challenges they have at home?
- Ask families how they use the home environment to support their children's learning needs and if they would like ideas about how to adapt the environment.

SHARE WITH FAMILIES

Sharing information with families helps them become actively involved in their children's development and learning.

- Share with families how you provide individualized support for their children in the classroom.
- Share observations you have made about their children's interests and needs.
- Discuss with families how you are embedding opportunities for skill practice throughout the day.
- Communicate about changes you made to your routine or environment and how that supported their children's learning needs.

COLLABORATE WITH FAMILIES

Remember, families are your partners in supporting children's development and learning.

- Discuss ideas that families can do at home to support their children's learning needs and skill development.
- Work with families to define learning goals for their children that are important to the families and reflect their values.



Including All Children

Taking It Home — Partnering with Teachers/Providers Around Inclusive Learning

As a family member, you play an important role in your child's early education. You can support your child's development and learning through open communication with your child's early childhood teacher/provider. Inform your child's teacher/provider of any concerns you may have about your child's development and learning.

Here are some ideas for how to communicate about your child's learning needs.

WHAT CAN YOU SHARE ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPING SKILLS AND INTERESTS?

- Share updates about your child's progress in different skills (i.e., drawing, talking, counting, etc.) with the teacher/provider.
- Discuss with your child's teacher/provider the types of activities you and your child enjoy doing together.

Communicating this information helps teachers/providers be more aware of your child's progress and interests so they may provide learning experiences that meet your child's needs.

WHAT CONCERNS CAN YOU SHARE ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT?

- Share any concerns you have about your child's developing skills, interactions, and behavior.
- Communicate with the teacher/provider if you feel your child has any specific needs, or if your child's needs are not being supported in the early learning environment.
- Share ways you support your child's skill development and learning at home.

Communicating this information helps teachers/providers be more aware of your intentions and concerns so they are better able to meet the individualized learning needs of your child.

WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO LEARNING EXPERIENCES IN YOUR CHILD'S PROGRAM?

- Think of ways you can be involved in your child's learning experiences in the program, for example, by reading to a small group of children or helping to guide an activity and communicate your interest to your child's teacher/provider.
- Request to meet with your child's teacher/provider outside of program time to discuss your child's progress and learning needs.

Learn more about inclusive learning and supporting your child's individual learning needs.

<http://families.naeyc.org/what-to-look-for-in-a-program>