

Early Childhood Education

Family engagement refers to the systemic inclusion of families in activities and programs that promote children's development, learning and wellness, including in planning, development, and evaluation. For family engagement to be integrated throughout early childhood systems and programs, providers in schools must engage families as essential partners while providing services that include children's learning and development, nurture positive relationships between families and staff, and support families.

Family Engagement Ideas

- Have parents sign up to come in and read their favorite children's books to the class.
- Have parents teach the child a dance, to play an instrument, a cooking activity, family tradition, or art activity
- Invite the parents to literacy night and have activities set up in each classroom for families to participate in with their children
- Send home literacy math bags with the children that contain easy activities for parents and children to complete. The children can take turns taking them home
- Have an open house where the parents can come and participate in activities with their children that are developmentally appropriate
- Have parents sign up to volunteer in the classroom to help with art projects, work with small groups or assist with other special activities
- Create a lending library for parents to check out books to read at home with their children
- Hold a talent show and have the parents participate with their children instead of just watching
- Have the parents assist the children in creating props, costumes etc. for a performance
- Have the parents help the children sort by color count or compare size of Easter eggs after an Easter egg hunt
- Create simple activities families can do with their children during a special breakfast or lunch; create a picture of the family eating with the children during muffins with mom; have families and children graph their favorite donut while eating donuts with dad and display results in the classroom chart