Tips for family engagement

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Build relationships

Communicate

Reassure

Reflect

Ideas for family engagement:

- Invite families to share traditions, stories, languages, music, or celebrations in ways they choose.
- Have parent-teacher conferences
- Invite families for career day
- Create “All About Me” Books with family photos
- Collect family recipes and create a class cookbook

Please note: Always follow your organization's policies and procedures when planning and implementing family engagement activities.

Meaningful family engagement is less about attendance at events and more about creating authentic partnerships where families feel seen, valued, and respected as their child's first and most important teachers.

Build relationships:

- invite family members into your classroom
- provide space for questions
- celebrate their child’s accomplishments

Communicate:

- send updates during the day
- inquire about their child’s wellbeing
- use open-ended questions

Reassure:

- provide check-ins
- ask for their input when making decisions
- share family- friendly resources

Reflect:

- **Ask yourself:** How well do I know each of the children and their families, and how can I learn more about them?
- **Consider:** How each family’s culture, language, and literacy preferences should shape your communication.
- **Ask family members:** How would you like to be involved in the classroom?
- **Ask your colleagues:** How they engage families in their programs?

This information was taken and summarized from the following websites:

- Steen, B. F. (2022). *Five RS for promoting positive family engagement*. NAEYC. Naeyc. https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/tyc/winter2022/fiver-rs-family
- Trying Together. (2021). *Family engagement toolkit* [Toolkit]. https://www.peterborough.ca/media/0ahjx4ur/family-engagement-toolkit.pdf