

### Partnering with Families in Assessment: *Including Families in Assessment*

Use these ideas and questions to build on what you've learned and extend your practice.

#### THINK ABOUT IT!

- **Self-Reflection**  
Use these questions to think about your own practice.
- **Reflect with Others**  
Supervisors, directors, coaches, and teachers/providers can be reflective partners.
- **The Power of Practice**  
Invite a colleague to join you; observe or record each other and share ideas.

#### REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- How do I include families in the assessment process? How can I improve this process?
- How can I use strategies from the circle of communication to invite two-way communication around assessment?
- How might incorporating the circle of communication impact my work with families? With children?
- As I think about my assessment and decision-making process, how do I encourage families to see themselves as co-observers and partners in this work?
- What step(s) in the circle of communication do I feel most comfortable/successful with? What step(s) are challenging?

#### TRY IT OUT!

Reflect on how you include families in the assessment process. Choose the family of one child in your care and identify a time of day (drop off, pick up) to practice using the circle of communication around assessment. Remember, the steps are:

1. Share
2. Ask-Listen
3. Interpret
4. Act-Connect

Encourage open, two-way communication as you share information and discuss observations about the child.

#### How Did It Go?

Reflect on your experience using the steps of the circle of communication to discuss observations. What steps were you confident using? What were some challenges at each step? How did the family engage in the process? What might you try next time? Why?

#### What Next?

Keep practicing the circle of communication as you include families as co-observers in assessment. Try this activity with each of the families in your program as you meet to discuss the growth and progress of their children. Explore the next pack, *Interpreting Assessment with Families*, to learn more about using the circle of communication when collaborating with families in interpreting ongoing assessment and planning learning goals for children.