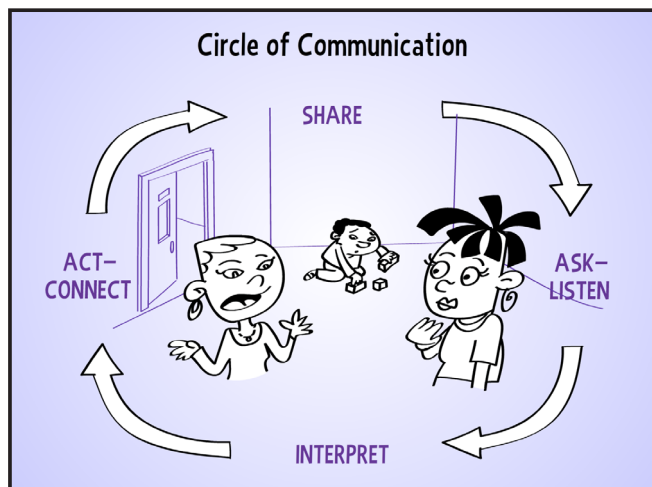


## Partnering with Families in Assessment: *Including Families in Assessment*

### THE CIRCLE OF COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES



Including families in assessment means creating ongoing dialogues between teachers/providers and families through a circle of communication. In this process, participants *share, ask and listen, interpret, then act and connect*.

As you listen to the dialogue between teacher (Eliana) and parent (Tatiana) pay attention to the steps in the circle of communication that Eliana uses with Tatiana as they discuss Joah's progress. Remember, a circle of communication keeps the conversation going.

**Eliana:** Hi Tatiana. If you have a moment, I'd like to show you what Joah built today.

**Facilitator:** *Tatiana and Eliana walk to the block area and find a block structure with a bridge.*

**Tatiana:** Wow! This took a lot of work.

**Eliana:** Yes, Joah told me it is a spaceship. I have noticed that Joah is interested in outer space and has been building spaceships with blocks recently. Can you tell me more about what he likes to do at home?

**Tatiana:** It's so interesting that you are showing me this. Joah just recently got a new building kit with small cubes, and he has been so excited. It's taking more effort to put things together with the smaller blocks, but he really likes it. Let me show you a picture of what he started to build yesterday.

**Facilitator:** *Tatiana shows Eliana a picture of a partial spaceship built from small cubes.*

**Eliana:** Wow! I'm impressed. As Joah's fine motor skills continue to develop, manipulating smaller blocks will get easier. What else does Joah do at home where he uses his fingers?

**Tatiana:** I've seen that buttoning his jacket is getting easier and he is drawing with crayons.

**Eliana:** I have observed similar skills. Joah can button and snap clothes, string beads, and is starting to hold crayons with his fingers instead of his fist. Now that you've shared that Joah is building with smaller cubes at home, I'll put the small cubes out on the shelf so that Joah can choose them when he's interested.

**Tatiana:** Joah would really love that, and, when he is finished with his spaceship at home, maybe he can bring it in to share.

**Facilitator:** *The next day, Eliana added small cubes to the manipulative area and observed Joah using the cubes to build structures. She shared this with Tatiana at drop off the following morning.*