

Partnering With Families in Children's Assessment

LEARN FROM FAMILIES

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

- Invite families to talk with you about their children during pickup and drop-off times. You could say something like, "I noticed that... Have you noticed the same at home?"
- Family members often are hurried at pickup and drop-off times; if possible, identify a time you can call family members to talk about their children. They will appreciate your care and interest.

SHARE WITH FAMILIES

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

- Share daily observations of children. Keep a small pad of paper and pen in your pocket to write down positive experiences of children throughout the day.
- Host a family workshop to discuss what assessment is and how you use it to make decisions that impact their children's development and learning.

COLLABORATE WITH FAMILIES

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

- Invite families to review and discuss observation notes and child-created art or objects. Ask them if what you observe is similar to or different from what they observe at home. Add family observation and information to children's portfolios.
- Ask families how you can support their goals for their children's development and learning.

Want More? For more ideas and tips for engaging families around assessment check out the following Head Start resource:
<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/docs/family-engagement-and-ongoing-child-assessment-081111.pdf>

Taking It Home - Partnering With Teachers Around Assessment

As family, you know your child better than anyone else and have valuable information to share with your child's teacher or caregiver. Here are some ideas about what to share and how to get started.

Did you know First 5 California has a parent education website? You can find great tips about how to build an effective relationship with your child's teacher or caregiver in the section Parent/Teacher Relations: <http://www.first5california.com/parents/learning-center.aspx?id=13&sub=59>

HELP YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER OR CAREGIVER GET TO KNOW WHO YOUR CHILD IS AT HOME.

- Place a sticky note on the fridge and make note of experiences your child enjoyed. Let your child share the note with his or her teacher or caregiver.
- Take and share a photo or video of your child interacting with other family members. Encourage your child to express his/her thoughts by using words.
- Tell your child's teacher or caregiver about a favorite family book or bedtime routine.

ASK YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER OR CAREGIVER FOR IDEAS TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING.

If you have a concern about your child's behavior, ask if the teacher or caregiver has also noticed the behavior.

- Example:**
- Parent: "At home, Zachery gets angry with his brother when he doesn't get his way. Does he do that with kids here?"
- Teacher: "Zachery gets excited with other children during play. We have found that it helps to suggest words for Zachery to use. We remind Zachery he can say 'no' or 'I'm not done yet'."
- Parent: "That's a good idea. I'll give it a try at home."
- Teacher: "Let me know how it works. We can try other approaches, too."

BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN CREATING LEARNING GOALS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER OR CAREGIVER.

- Share your expectations about your child's learning with the teacher or caregiver.
- Ask questions about your child's progress. Ask for clarification if the teacher or caregiver says something you do not understand.
- Ask how you can extend learning experiences from school at home. If your toddler shows an interest in art materials (such as paint or play dough), ask for ideas about art or other activities to do at home.