

## Family Engagement

Reflect upon and discuss which family engagement features your program promotes and emphasizes – especially features that contribute to shared decision making and advocacy. Consider why, and what you can do to achieve or maintain a “balanced” approach to family engagement.

Program Resources	We Promote This	Family Resources	We Promote This
▪ Welcoming environment		▪ Communicate knowledge with caregivers	
▪ Interact with community		▪ Create and reinforce home learning environment	
▪ 2-way communication		▪ Program volunteer / participation	
▪ Shared decision making		▪ Act as parent liaisons for other families	
▪ Parenting classes / Adult education		▪ Serve on governing board	
▪ Child care / Transportation			
▪ Home education resources			

*From: The Social Exchange Model of Family Engagement – NAEYC and Pre-K Now, 2009*

### System Elements Promoting Family Engagement

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agency Leadership</li> <li>• Organizational Culture</li> <li>• System Change Initiatives and Program Improvement Plans</li> <li>• Policies and Standards</li> <li>• Trained Supervisors</li> <li>• Manageable Caseloads</li> <li>• Skillful Facilitation</li> <li>• Defined Roles for Planning and Facilitation Of Team Decision-Making Meetings</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability and Accessibility of Diverse Services</li> <li>• Identification of Service Gaps</li> <li>• Training and Coaching</li> <li>• Systemic Documentation</li> <li>• Individualized Performance Review Systems</li> <li>• Quality Assurance and Case Review Process</li> <li>• External Assistance</li> <li>• Monitoring</li> </ul> |
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*From: Child Welfare Information Gateway, Children’s Bureau/ACYF – Bulletin for Professionals “Family Engagement” June 2010*

### Shared Decision Making and Advocacy Opportunities

- Input on the curriculum used in the program
- Advising on Health services
- Strategies for their disabled children – IEP, IFSP
- Family assessment and goal-setting activities
- Participation in community groups
- Activities to work on at home
- Special committees – planning and implementation
- Ways to volunteer
- Board membership

### Developing Parent Capacity

- Setting some goals for themselves – making progress
- Mastering everyday life skills
- Planning for their family together
- Identifying strengths and skills they have
- Working on skills they would like to improve
- Learning how to reduce stress and resolve problems
- Creating opportunities to socialize
- Involving themselves in a community of people
- Work with other parents – address community issues
- Positive relationships with mentors, and teachers

*From: Head Start Vision for Parent Involvement*