

Engaging Families in Curriculum Guidance

Purpose

This describes the reasons for and benefits of engaging families in curricula for infants and toddlers.

Guidance

All Families

Families are the primary partner in their children's learning and are a valuable source of information with insights about their child's interests, abilities, skills, developmental progress and family culture. Parents are their child's first and primary teacher.

Each family's English and literacy skills should be taken into consideration when engaging families with the curriculum. Use reports and curriculum planning information as a guide for conversation to support families' understanding of how individualized curriculum can support children's development and learning in all areas.

Preschool

As a foundation for curriculum, teachers engage with families around their children's interests, strengths and goals. Additionally, teachers solicit engagement in curriculum by exploring the family's experiences, interests, and linguistic and cultural background. By understanding the wealth of background children and families bring to the classroom, teachers can support classroom learning that is culturally relevant, engaging, and meaningful to the children and families in their classrooms. See *Required Curriculum Procedure, General Curriculum Implementation Guidance, Ongoing Child Assessment Procedure, Curriculum Planning Procedure-Preschool, and Individualizing for Children Procedure* for further information.

Center-Based and Home-Based Early Head Start

A primary goal of Early Head Start is to support the healthy development of the parent-child attachment relationship. This is accomplished by encouraging positive parent-child interactions and engaging families in the planning and implementation of curriculum that supports the child's development and learning in the classroom, at socialization groups, and in the home.

In Home-Based Early Head Start, curriculum planning with families for home visits and socialization groups is included in each weekly home visit. Activities and experiences are planned that encourage parent-child interaction. The Home Visitor supports this interaction by providing support and coaching as needed.

In Center-Based Early Head Start, parent input and feedback regarding curriculum offered in the classroom is asked about at goal setting home visits and is welcome at any other time. Teachers also partner with families during home visits and center contacts to develop ideas for rich learning experiences at home.

Related Documents

Required Curriculum Procedure

General Curriculum Implementation Guidance

Ongoing Child Assessment Procedure

Curriculum Planning Procedure- Preschool

Curriculum Planning Procedure – Early Head Start

Individualizing for Children Procedure

Indoor and Outdoor Learning Environment Procedure