

# 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.

### 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.