

Family Partnership Philosophy

Purpose

This describes the Early Learning Program approach to working in partnership with families.

Guidance

Building a partnership with a family is an interactive process that is individualized, strengths-based, family driven and staff supported. Family partnerships are trusting, respectful relationships that exist throughout the time a family is enrolled in the program. Working in partnership with families benefits the development and education of each child enrolled in the Early Learning Program. Interactions with families must reflect a commitment by staff to the parents' role as the child's primary and most important educator.

This partnership is reflected in the following ways

- Services are flexible, individualized and take into account each family's cultural, ethnic and linguistic experiences.
- Site team members encourage families to focus on their strengths and find ways to build on them.
- Families are the primary decision makers at all stages of the partnership.
- Families share their needs and work together with staff toward meeting those needs.
- Families are able to maintain their existing cultural traditions, lifestyles and values.
- Families determine their relationship to the program and choose their level of involvement.
- Families develop their own community support system with assistance from staff to identify and access these supports.

Related Documents

Principles of Family Support Practice Guidance

Resources

Parent Family Community Engagement Framework

http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/sr/approach/pdf/OHSApproach-to-School-Readiness_PFCE-Framework.pdf