

# Principles of Family Support Practice Guidance

## Purpose

This document describes the elements of Family Support work in Early Learning.

## Guidance

Family support programs work toward strengthening families to support the well-being and healthy development of all family members and their future generations. The following principles guide the work of all Early Learning staff and programs:

- Site teams and families work together in relationships based on equality and respect.
- Teams enhance the families' capacity to support the growth and development of all family members - adults, youth and children.
- Families are resources to their own members, to other families, to programs and to communities.
- Programs affirm and strengthen families' cultural, racial and linguistic identities and enhance their abilities to function in a multicultural society.
- Programs are embedded in their communities and contribute to the community building process.
- Programs advocate with families for services and systems that are fair, responsive and accountable to the families served.
- Practitioners work with families to mobilize formal and informal resources to support family development.
- Programs are flexible and continually responsive to emerging family and community issues.
- Principles of Family Support are modeled in all program activities, including planning, governance and administration.