

Partnering with Families

- ❑ **Shows respect in communications with families** (e.g., by monitoring body language and tone of voice and addressing parents in respectful terms)
- ❑ **Builds relationships with families by connecting informally** (e.g., relates a positive story via phone call)
- ❑ **Ensures classroom environment and communication with families are free from biases** (e.g., classroom and communication is welcoming to multiple cultures, backgrounds, and home languages)
- ❑ **Works with families to minimize language, cultural, emotional, and logistical barriers to partnership** (e.g., provides translated materials; asks families about convenient forms of communication)
- ❑ **Uses a strengths-based approach** by focusing on parents' strengths and empowering them to use those strengths as part of their child's education team (e.g., expresses positive attitudes about families, involves parents who are good communicators to help disseminate information)

Encouraging Play-Based Learning and Responsive Interactions at Home

- ❑ **Aligns play-based home activities to curriculum and lesson plans** (e.g., selects and plans activities to send home that reinforce skills and learning in class)
- ❑ **Uses data to select individualized play-based home activities to share with families** (e.g., selects and plans activities to send home based on interests, developmental stages, or areas of concern identified in Developmental Milestones Checklists)
- ❑ **Engages in conversations with families about the importance of play-based learning, responsiveness, and language facilitation** (e.g., explaining the benefits of play-based learning versus drill exercises)
- ❑ **Promotes responsiveness by providing families with guidance to adjust home activities based on children's signals** (e.g., simplify or challenge the activity, or discontinue the activity if frustrating for child)
- ❑ **Solicits feedback from families about play-based home activities and responds to feedback with additional support if needed** (e.g., helps families troubleshoot if activities aren't successful)

Promoting Two-Way Conversations with Families to Individualize Support

- ❑ **Uses family observations to inform conversations about their child's development** (e.g., invites families to complete Developmental Milestones Checklists and share observations during formal and informal conversations)
- ❑ **Uses family observations to inform instruction and individualize support to children** (e.g., differentiates instruction and targets skill development by combining insights from families with other data)
- ❑ **Supports flexible conferencing to meet family needs** (e.g., offers video conference or multiple scheduling opportunities)
- ❑ **Describes child's progress in family-friendly ways** (e.g., presents data without using educational jargon)
- ❑ **Provides family-friendly explanation of why early skills are important for later success** (e.g., explains how fine motor skills are important for children to learn how to dress and feed themselves and contribute to later writing skills)
- ❑ **Partners with families to set clear goals and create action plans for supporting children at school and at home** (e.g., teachers and families decide together what steps to take to support child's development; collaboratively select home activities to meet their goals)

Hosting Family Events to Support Children's Development

- ❑ **Engages families in playful events to build understanding of key developmental or academic skills or concepts** (e.g., events are content focused and in alignment with age-appropriate learning goals)
- ❑ **Models and explains activities using family-friendly language and materials** (e.g., uses visuals and simple instructions)
- ❑ **Builds engagement and understanding by moving around the room offering guidance and support to families** (e.g., assists families who appear unengaged)
- ❑ **Provides families with ideas or resources that extend family event content to the home** (e.g., ends event by modeling a home extension activity)

RELATED CLI ENGAGE TOOLS

- CIRCLE ACTIVITY COLLECTION: FAMILY
- PLAY AND LEARNING STRATEGIES (PALS) SPOTLIGHTS

- DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES CHECKLISTS
- NAVIGATING CONCERNS ABOUT CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT: A ROADMAP
- UNDERSTANDING DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING AND EARLY INTERVENTION VIDEO SERIES

- SUPPORTING SPROUTS FAMILY WORKSHOPS
- CIRCLE ACTIVITY COLLECTION: FAMILY