

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 materials and communication with families are inclusive of all families** (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 instructional plans** (e.g., selects home activities that reinforce concepts and skills practiced in class and incorporates activities into lesson plans)
- Uses data to select individualized play-based home activities to share with families** (e.g., selects activities that support skills below benchmark)
- Engages in conversations with families about the importance of play-based learning, responsiveness, and language facilitation** (e.g., 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 Student Support

- Uses family observations to inform conversations about their child's development** (e.g., uses Family Observation Forms in parent-teacher conferences)
- Uses family observations to inform instruction and individualize support to students** (e.g., targets skill development by combining insight from Family Observation Forms with other sources of data)
- Supports flexible conferencing to meet family needs** (e.g., offers video conference or multiple scheduling opportunities)
- Describes student 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 phonological awareness contributes to later reading skills)
- Partners with families to set clear goals and create action plans for supporting children at school and at home** (e.g., creates an action plan with aligned school and home activities to support skills below benchmark)

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-related 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

- CIRCLE PROGRESS MONITORING PARENT REPORTS
- FAMILY OBSERVATION FORMS

- TEACHING TOGETHER FAMILY WORKSHOPS
- CIRCLE ACTIVITY COLLECTION: FAMILY