



Domain- Family and Community Engagement

## Early Childhood Education

**Family engagement refers to the systematic inclusion of families in activities and programs that promote children's development, learning, and wellness, including in planning, development, and evaluation. For family engagement to be integrated throughout early childhood systems and programs, providers and schools must engage families as essential partners while providing services that encourage children's learning and development, nurture positive relationships between families and staff, and support families.**

### Family Engagement Ideas

- Have parents sign up to come in and read their favorite children's book to the class.
- Have parents teach the children a dance, how to play instrument, do a cooking activity, share a family tradition, or do an art activity.
- Invite parents to literacy night and have activities set up in each classroom for families to participate in with their children.
- Send home literacy/math bags with the children that contain easy activities for parents and children to complete. The children can take turns taking them home.
- Have an open house where the parents can come and participate in activities with the children that are developmentally appropriate.
- Have parents sign up to volunteer in the classroom to help with art projects, work with small groups, or assist with other special activities.
- Create a lending library for parents to check out books to read at home with their children.
- Hold a talent show and have the parents participate with their children instead of just watching.
- Have the parents assist the children in creating props, costumes, etc. for a performance.
- Have the parents help the children sort by color, count, or compare size of Easter Eggs after an egg hunt.
- Create simple activities families can do with their children during special breakfast or lunch. (Create a picture of the family eating with the children during Muffins with Mom. Have families and children graph their favorite doughnut while eating Doughnuts with Dad and display the results in the classroom on a chart).
- Have seasonal/holiday activities sent home for children to do with their parents and return to display.
- Hold holiday parties that include parents doing activities, reading books, or doing art with their children