

ESSENTIALS OF FAMILY FRIENDLY PRACTICE

Support Families as Leaders & Child Advocates

TIPS THAT EMPOWER CHILDREN'S FIRST TEACHERS

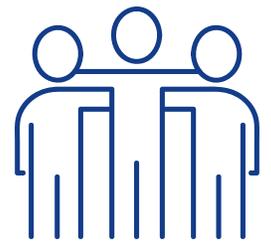


NURTURE A LONG-TERM VIEW THAT THEY ARE THEIR CHILD'S ADVOCATE

For many families, early childhood molds their parenting approach. Support them to celebrate their role as being their children's champions!

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Programs that serve young children have a unique chance to develop adult leaders. Give families the chance to learn to raise their voices and bring along peers to do the same.



SIGN OF QUALITY: PROGRAM DECISIONS

Before using a new curricula, a director meets with families to get their ideas about options. And then the director uses their input to make a final choice.

SIGN OF QUALITY: DAILY INTERACTIONS

Programs that serve young children have a unique chance to develop adult leaders. Give families the chance to learn to raise their voices and bring along peers to do the same.



This guidance is based on the Indiana Early Childhood Family Engagement Toolkit, 2015, available at elacindiana.org.

ESSENTIALS OF FAMILY FRIENDLY PRACTICE

Support Families Through Early Childhood Transitions

TIPS THAT MAKE CARE & EDUCATION CHANGES BETTER



SUPPORT TRANSITIONS FROM ONE EDUCATIONAL SPACE TO THE NEXT

Families play a critical role in transitions and should have a role in all changes. Teachers and families can partner during moves between classrooms, programs and developmental steps.

BUILD A COLLABORATIVE CULTURE & SHARE RELEVANT RESOURCES

Create a system that allows teachers and families to communicate during each change. Refer families to local resources and websites that can guide them through transitions.



SIGN OF QUALITY: BEGINNINGS & ENDINGS

When families begin, the program shares daily activities and each child's experience on the first day. Before leaving pre-K, a program invites a kindergarten teacher to talk with children.

SIGN OF QUALITY: THOUGHTFUL TRANSITIONS

As a child moves from through developmental milestones, such as from bottles to solids, the program and family support the child together, ensuring a successful transition.



This guidance is based on the Indiana Early Childhood Family Engagement Toolkit, 2015, available at elacindiana.org.

ESSENTIALS OF FAMILY FRIENDLY PRACTICE

Connect Families to Peers & Their Community

TIPS THAT HELP FAMILIES & PARENTS GAIN SUPPORTS



PROVIDE FAMILIES WITH PROGRAM-BASED WAYS TO CONNECT

An open-door policy and family resource space offer families the chance to build connections with one another. Social media is another great tool for creating peer connections.

PROGRAMS CONNECT FAMILIES TO COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCES

Programs can share community resources with families in many ways. Up-to-date bulletin boards and finding families new resources are concrete efforts that any program can implement



SIGN OF QUALITY: ACTIVATING FAMILY TALENTS

Programs provide opportunities for families to share their strengths. Families can use their skills as speakers, event planners and volunteers!

SIGN OF QUALITY: FAMILY NEEDS DRIVE EFFORTS

Family interests are considered before updating a bulletin board or resource center. Polls or informal chats can be used to find the topics they want to know more about.



This guidance is based on the Indiana Early Childhood Family Engagement Toolkit, 2015, available at elacindiana.org.

ESSENTIALS OF FAMILY FRIENDLY PRACTICE

Support Families' Educational Aspirations

TIPS TO NURTURE LIFELONG LEARNING

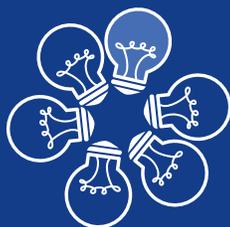


FAMILY-CENTERED APPROACHES SPARK WHOLE-FAMILY LEARNING

Ask each family about their hopes and dreams for their whole family. Use that input to shape individual and program-wide supports like workshops, classes and resource sharing.

COMMUNICATE ABOUT STAFF TRAINING

Include families in conversations about what educators and staff learn as they play, explore and discover together. Link educators' knowledge and skill to children's learning and growth.



SIGN OF QUALITY: ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Family-friendly programs provide plenty of chances for adults to learn and grow. From workshops to family activities, early learning spaces can be a hub for grown-up growth too!

SIGN OF QUALITY: SHARING EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

A great way to support adult learning is to share higher education, vocation and adult learning program information. This can be distributed to families one-on-one or in family resource spaces.



This guidance is based on the Indiana Early Childhood Family Engagement Toolkit, 2015, available at elacindiana.org.