

# Family Engagement Resources

These resources address the agreements between the program and family for involvement in the child's education and the role and expectations of the parents (2228-R 4.04.3).

## High Impact Family Engagement Strategies

Family engagement is a collaborative and strengths-based process through which early childhood professionals, families, and children build positive and goal-oriented relationships.<sup>1</sup> Engagement strategies are activities your program participates in that help build positive relationships with the families in your program. High impact strategies are those activities that have the strongest influence.

### What are High Impact Family Engagement Strategies: Definitions and More

- [Family-School-Community Partnerships | CDE](#)
- [Build Initiative Family Engagement Toolkit](#)
- [WestEd Family Engagement Toolkit: Continuous Improvement Through an Equity Lens](#) (2017)
- [U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services and U.S. Department Of Education Policy Statement on Family Engagement](#) (2016)
- [NAEYC Principles of Effective Family Engagement](#) (2009)
- [National Conference of State Legislatures - Family Engagement in Education](#) (2018)
- [Penn State - Parent Engagement Practices Improve Outcomes for Preschool Children](#) (2017)

Review these resources ([Flamboyant Foundation](#); [Connecticut's Definition and Framework for Family Engagement](#) (2018); [Dual Capacity Framework Summary](#)) on high impact family engagement strategies. The chart below identifies ways to support families in the education of their children outside of the classroom.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement. (2018). *Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework*



Family Engagement Strategy	Examples
<b>Bi-yearly Family Conferences</b>	Build Initiative Toolkit - <a href="#">Shared Decision-Making for Families [PDF]</a>
<b>Two-way Consistent Communication Between Families and Schools (Preferably in Native Language)</b>	Build Initiative Toolkit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Supporting Two-way Communication [PDF]</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Digital Communications Toolkit [PDF]</a></li> </ul>
<b>Sharing Assessment Data with Families</b>	The National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement and Office of Head Start - <a href="#">Family Engagement and Ongoing Child Assessment [PDF]</a> (2011)
<b>Home Visits</b>	<p><b>Tips to get started with Home Visits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Build Initiative - <a href="#">Home Visits</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Home Visit Training and Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Parent-Teacher Home Visits</a></li> </ul>
<b>Family Education Meetings</b>	<p>NAEYC - <a href="#">Deepening Families' Understanding of Children's Learning in Centers</a> (2017)</p> <p>Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Introduction to Workshops for Families [PDF]</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Ways to Engage Families by Using Tell Me A Story in Your Center [PDF]</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Example of a family education event:</b> <a href="#">Playing to Learn and Learning to Play, an Interactive Parent Workshop</a></p>
<b>Participation in Program Decisions</b>	Build Initiative - <a href="#">Building Peer-to-Peer Family Networks [PDF]</a>
<b>School-Home Connection</b>	NAEYC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">More Than a Letter Home: Activities to Send to Families Before the Year Begins</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Message in a Backpack™ Fun, Easy Ways to Play with Math at Home</a> (2018)</li> </ul>
<b>Parenting Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child Welfare Information Gateway - <a href="#">Parent Education Programs</a></li> <li>● NAEYC - <a href="#">Promoting Powerful Interactions Between Parents and Children</a> (2018)</li> </ul>



<p><b>Transitions</b></p>	<p>NAEYC - <a href="#">Easing Transitions for Children and Families</a> (2019)            Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Supporting Transitions: Using Child Development as a Guide [PDF]</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Transitions: From the Children's Perspective</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">GET READY FOR KINDERGARTEN! Activity Calendar for Families [PDF]</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Transition Resources</a> - Spanish</li> </ul> <p>NAEYC - <a href="#">4 Things Kindergarten Teachers Want You to Know</a></p>
<p><b>Other Resources</b></p>	<p>The National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations - <a href="#">Family Engagement</a>            Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center - <a href="#">Building Partnerships with Families Series</a>            U.S. Department of Education - <a href="#">Early Learning Resources</a>            Regional Education Laboratory Program - <a href="#">Toolkit of Resources for Engaging Families and the Community as Partners in Education</a> [PDF] (2016)</p>