

Teacher's Guide: Relationship-Building with Families



What is This?

This resource describes how family-teacher partnerships can benefit children and provides tips for building relationships with families.



How Do I Use This?

1. Review the resource:

Read the handout and understand the topic.

2. Initiate communication with families:

Fill out the first handout *All about Myself* and send it to families (via newsletter, daily note, email, text, or an app).



3. Engage families:

Send the second handout *All about My Family* to families (via daily notes, email, or an app). Encourage them to complete and return the handout. During drop-off/pick-up, engage with families about things they shared on the resource. Talk about things that interest you or things you have in common with them.



4. Reflect and adjust:

Based on families' answers to the resource, think about activities and classroom materials in which you can include a family's cultural practices.



Why do we need to build relationships with families?

Families know their children better than anyone—their temperaments, personalities, strengths, and needs. They know their own cultural values and what they would like to pass on to their children. Creating strong family-teacher partnerships has many benefits for children, families, and the teacher.

These benefits include:

- ▶ More positive child care experiences for children.
- ▶ Frequent back-and-forth communications between child care and home.
- ▶ Shared goals and understanding that results in quality individualized support.



How do we build relationships with families?

Introduction

“I am from a big city, but I love outdoor activities. What is Carolyn’s favorite family activity?”

Small Talk

“Carolyn tried sitting on a potty chair for the first time today!”

Big Talk

“I have noticed that Carolyn recently gets frustrated easily and takes longer to calm down.”

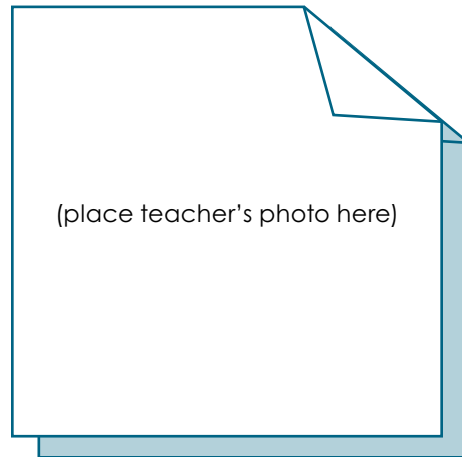
One way to begin developing a strong family-teacher partnership is learning about each other.

Getting to know each family makes day-to-day communications easier. Daily positive interactions lay a foundation for teachers to easily approach a family member when a more in-depth conversation is needed. Families will also find it easier to approach the teacher. Using different communication methods based on families’ needs and preferences will create opportunities for communication and engagement.

In the following pages, you will find resources for building a strong foundation for successful family-teacher partnerships.

All About

(Teacher's name)



I teach _____
(Classroom name)

I have worked as a teacher for _____ years.

I grew up in _____



Now I live in _____

My goals for the children in my class are



Important people in my family are:

The languages I speak are:

My goals for working with families are to

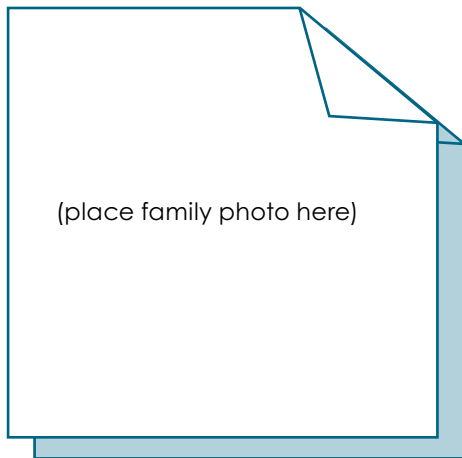
The best way to reach me is



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

All About My Family

Instructions: Add a photo of your family and fill in the information you would like the teacher to know about your family!



_____ lives with:
(Child's name)

Other important people in
my family are:



We are most comfortable speaking the
following languages:



Favorite things my family likes to do
together are:

Our favorite holiday or family celebration is:

The best way to comfort my child when my
child is upset is:

Something I want you to know about my child
or my family is:



My favorite ways to communicate with the
teachers are (check all that apply):



- ☐ Communication notebook
- ☐ Class newsletter
- ☐ Emails, text, phone calls
- ☐ Informal face-to-face talk
- ☐ Parent-Teacher conference

I would like to support my child's classroom
by (check all that apply):

- ☐ Talking about the communication
notebook/newsletter with my child
- ☐ Volunteer in the classroom
- ☐ Make things for the classroom
- ☐ Serve on a family committee
- ☐ Other: _____