

Facility

Feeding	Breast-feeding space provided for mothers
Bulletin Boards	Post notices about events, resources, social-emotional development, classroom schedule, and what is happening in the classroom; post family photos in the classroom
Conversation Corner	Provide a dedicated space for parents to talk privately with staff
Charts	Use charts to quickly communicate and receive information about how their child is doing/feeling
Pictures and Art	Post photos and art that is reflective of the families and children served in the program



In-Person

Open-Door Policy	Families are part of the community, so may be in the classroom anytime throughout the day, and are invited to do so
Staff-Parent Contact	Families encounter and have opportunity to talk privately with staff
Volunteerism	Parents and other family caregivers are invited to come into the classroom to serve, such as reading to babies, rocking children, or helping with feedings
Home Visits	Staff meets with families in their homes to learn about the child and family
Phrase Book	Staff has access to a phrase book to assist in basic communication in other languages, when an interpreter is unavailable (e.g., Hello. How are you? Baby was tired today.)
Classroom Celebrations	Find fun reasons to bring families into the classroom, such as celebrating school milestones, holidays, and success stories; make events inclusive of all types of families (e.g., Cupcakes with Caregivers instead of Muffins with Moms)

Technology

Phone	Connect with families to share both positive stories and when concerns arise to learn about family interests, and activities
Text	Use for reminders, short bits of information to help families support their child's development, resource sharing, or setting up appointments; share photos of the child meeting expectations (e.g., baby napping, toddler sharing, etc.)
Apps	Apps help share information, coordinate events, classroom activities, and photos. Examples: SeeSaw, Learning Genie, Remind
Social Media	Media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram allow parents to reinforce school activities at home in a timely fashion, learn more about child development, and receive reminders about special events. Private groups allow parents to have access to what their child is doing throughout the day, ask questions of the center's community of parents and staff, and have a place to share ideas.
Website	Provides general information about the center, contacts, events, handbooks and policies, curriculum, and PBS process
Email	Useful for sharing digital newsletters and forms (but not forms that need to be printed)

Paper

Notes Home	Share information about good things the child is doing; connect on touchpoints (i.e., prepare the family for challenging stages of development and educate them about why these are important and how they are positive, in advance); supportive notes about the family's strengths and efforts
Resources	Connect family to relevant community resources
Educational	Information about social-emotional development and challenging behavior, tips, and activities to do at home
Newsletter	Allows parents to see the big picture of what is happening at the center, get to know staff, and allow parents to submit stories about how they are engaging their child at home
Questionnaires	Sent home, seeking parent input and feedback
Classroom Books	Create books to send home for families to read together; topics include expectations, rules, and daily procedures (depending on age)
Home Activity Calendar	Send home a paper calendar with simple ways parents can encourage social-emotional development; reinforce the calendar on social media or through apps