



Family Engagement Checklist

What is Family Engagement?

Families are engaged when they partner with early learning programs to promote their children’s development, learning and wellness. Positive relationships between families and staff in early learning programs are the foundation for family engagement.

Family engagement has been shown to

- Increase a child’s motivation to learn
- Reduce behavioral problems
- Improve social-emotional development
- Foster school readiness skills, such as impulse control, attention, memory and planning skills.

This checklist is a tool for your family to use to consider the level of partnership with your child’s early learning program. Ask yourself the following questions and check a box for your answer. For any items answered “no”, you may want to write a note on how you can begin doing that item. Consider sharing your responses with your child’s teacher and discuss ways you can be even more engaged in your child’s learning.

Family participation in decision-making and goal setting				
Does your family...	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Share the hopes and expectations you have for your child with the teacher either in writing or in person?				
Work with the teacher to set learning goals for your child at home and school?				
Share information and discuss your child's progress toward achieving goals for school and home?				

Two-way communication				
Does your family...	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Indicate the preferred modes of communication with the teacher? (examples: email, text, phone, in person)				
Participate in regular parent-teacher conferences throughout the year?				
Engage in face-to-face conversations with school staff at drop-off and pickup times?				
Read all written communication about your child’s activities and respond as needed?				





Relationships				
Does your family...	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Share your knowledge, skills and talents with the school? (examples: cooking, reading to the class, music, art, making items for the class, crafts)				
Participate in the school's social/fun activities?				
Know your child's daily/weekly classroom schedules?				
Use program-provided resources and apps to reinforce home learning? (examples: lending libraries, suggested activities, the Vroom app)				

Family participation in program-level decisions and wider advocacy efforts				
Does your family...	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Participate in program-level decision-making? (examples: board of directors, committees, etc.)				
Participate in advocacy efforts at the local, state, or federal level?				

*Adapted from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Program Self-Assessment Checklist.

