



## Overview of the Family Services Role in Head Start Programs

### Building Relationships and Partnerships with Families Worksheet

#### Reflection Questions

Reflect on each question. Write your response in the space provided.

Think of a time when you built a positive relationship with a family. What went well? What would you do differently?

How can your manager support you in building relationships and partnerships with families?

What are some examples of how your interactions with parents and family members can influence their interactions with their children?

How do you remember details about a family (e.g., their names, stories about other family members, preferences)?

What are your own cultural and linguistic experiences? How could they show up in your work with families?

## Key Takeaways

- Use strengths-based attitudes and strategies as your essential tools for building relationships with families. Acknowledge and appreciate families' expertise about their children. They know their children's temperaments, personalities, strengths, vulnerabilities, talents, and unique needs. You create positive partnerships with families by seeking their expertise.
- In a staff-parent parallel process, the emotional connections you form with parents and family members can influence their emotional connections with their children. When parents and family members experience positive support from staff, this experience can help them give the same kind of support to their children.
- The [Relationship-Based Competencies to Support Family Engagement](#) outline 10 distinct groupings of knowledge, skills, and individual practices to support your successful engagement with families. The RBCs can also help to strengthen your professional expertise.

## Next Steps

- Identify two to three key takeaways that you want to implement in your daily work.
- Complete the Action Starters table below.

Action Starters				
Something to think about or discuss more. . .	Something to try in practice. . .	When?	How?	With whom?

For more information, please contact us: [PFCE@ecetta.info](mailto:PFCE@ecetta.info) | 1-866-763-6481

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