

# Creating a Caring Community

## Tips for Families

### Good to see you. Come on in!

Your Head Start or Early Head Start program is about more than helping your child learn and grow. Programs invite you to help create a learning environment of belonging where you feel like a valued member of the community.

Working together with program staff promotes a sense of community and belonging for all families and children. Families are the first — and most important — teachers in their children's lives. Your child's educators, home visitors, program staff, and the other families can provide support and links to services like housing, jobs, education, and health care.

You can be a resource to other families, and they can be a resource for you. Share or ask questions about helpful programs and parenting strategies.

### Ways to Take Part in a Caring Community

#### Join in

- Visit your child's learning environment and get to know your child's peers and their educators. Learn about the families' cultures and interests. Share about your culture and interests.
- Talk with educators, staff, and other families at program events like family nights.
- Connect with other families at socialization groups for home-based programs.
- Participate in your program's parent council.
- Invite other families to socialize at a park, community center, library, or other community gathering space.

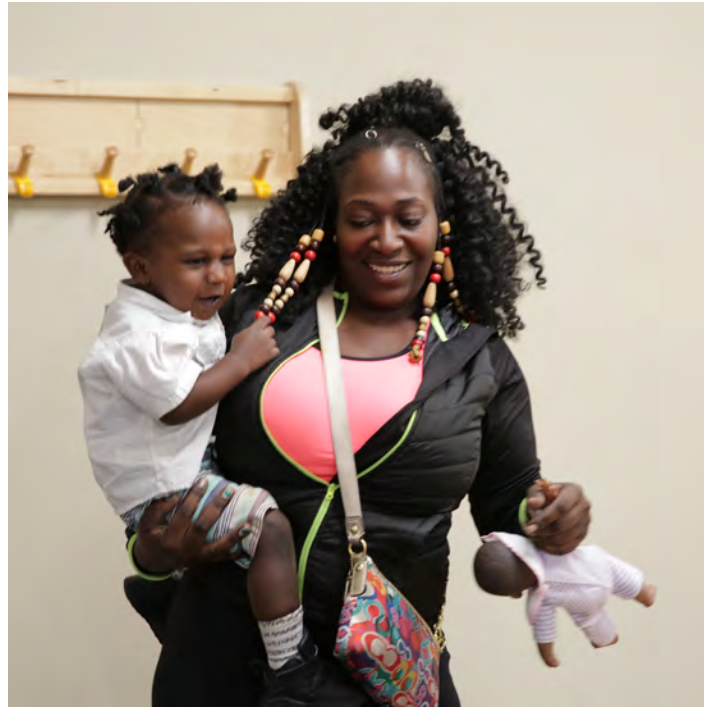


## Volunteer

- Support program activities and routines. Do you have an idea for an activity or project you could lead? Let the educators know.
- Participate in family activities if you can be present during the day. Your program might also have activities you can support in the evenings or on weekends.

## Find out

- Do you have questions about the program or your child's progress? Ask a home visitor, educator, or program leader.
- Is there a social media channel or communication board at the program? Ask how to join to connect with other families, education staff, and program leaders.



National Center on  
Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning



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