



Family Engagement in Early Care and Education

A Relationship-Based Approach to Family Engagement Learning Activity: Funds of Knowledge

Objective

The purpose of this activity is to reflect on your own Funds of Knowledge and think about how you might gather this information from families and use it to inform your work.

Instructions

1. Review the 10 categories of Funds of Knowledge on the next page.
2. Think about Funds of Knowledge for you and your family.
3. Fill in your Funds of Knowledge on the lines provided. Skip the categories that do not apply to you or your family. Add a new category based on your culture.
4. Within your small group, share the aspects of your Funds of Knowledge that you feel comfortable discussing.
5. Consider these questions:
 - a. What similarities did you notice among the Funds of Knowledge shared in your small group?
 - b. What differences did you notice?
 - c. How might you gather the Funds of Knowledge of children and families in your classroom or program?
 - d. What are some of the ways you might apply the Funds of Knowledge of children and families to inform culturally relevant programming, such as approaches to family engagement, curriculum development, and instructional practices?

Adapted from:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center. (n.d.). *Exploring cultural concepts: Funds of knowledge*.

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/spring2spring-funds-of-knowledge-eng.pdf>

Funds of Knowledge

| Category | My Family and Me |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Home Language | <i>Examples: Arabic; Spanish; Navajo; Italian</i> |
| Family Values and Traditions | <i>Examples: holiday celebrations; religious beliefs; work ethic</i> |
| Caregiving | <i>Examples: swaddling baby; giving baby pacifier; co-sleeping</i> |
| Friends and Family | <i>Examples: visiting grandma; barbecues; sports outings</i> |
| Family Outings | <i>Examples: shopping; beach; library; picnic</i> |
| Household Chores | <i>Examples: sweeping; dusting; doing dishes</i> |
| Educational Activities | <i>Examples: going to the museum; taking a walk in the neighborhood</i> |

Learning Activity: Funds of Knowledge

| Category | My Family and Me |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Favorite TV Shows | <i>Examples: watching Dora; Sesame Street; Sid the Science Kid</i> |
| Family Occupations | <i>Examples: fishing; office; construction; policeman</i> |
| Scientific Knowledge | <i>Examples: recycling; exercising; health</i> |
| | <i>Additional Funds of Knowledge</i> |

González, N., Moll, L., & Amanti, C. (Eds). (2005). *Funds of knowledge: Theorizing practices in households, communities and classrooms*. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

For more information about this resource, please contact us:
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NATIONAL CENTER ON
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