



LEARNING FROM FAMILIES

Learning from families are the foundation of cultural responsiveness. Families can provide valuable information about children’s cultures and can help you use the information responsively. You can integrate what you’ve learned from families into the curriculum.

What can we learn from families? So many things! Here are some examples!

CAREGIVING PRACTICES

- Comforting and soothing techniques
- Feeding and eating routines
- Diapering and toilet learning—age, approach, and language used
- Dressing routines
- Sleep schedules and routines
- Approaches to guidance or discipline

CHILDREN S COMMUNICATION WITH ADULTS

- Languages used when speaking with adults
- Addressing a family member
- Addressing adults who are not family members
- Greetings and interactions like “please” and “thank you”
- Times when children are expected to be silent or to talk

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Expectations of what and how children learn
- Priorities for their child as an infant, a toddler, a preschooler
- Goals for developing home language and English language skills
- Idea-sharing about learning experiences and activities at home
- Role of play and other activities
- Relationships with other children

FAMILY VALUES

- Consider how families represent their culture within their homes
- Respect expectations for entering or leaving the home
- Consider how the community represents their culture and language
- Note the way families perceive parent and home visitor roles

Handout adapted from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/family-engagement-cultural-perspectives.pdf>