



LEARNING FROM FAMILIES

Learning from families is 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 routines and toilet learning—age, approach, and language used
- Dressing routines
- Sleep schedules and routines
- Approaches to guidance and 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
- Perception of parent and teacher roles in children's learning

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- Reflecting children's cultures in the learning environment
- Book suggestions and other culturally relevant learning materials
- Sharing their cultures and languages in early learning settings (e.g., telling stories, leading games)
- Connecting learning themes and units and their culture

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