



Mini Lesson: Communicating with Families

Basket 2 Learning to See

Focus

Communicating with Families

Introduction

Families are essential partners in children's learning and development. Educators can build trusting relationships and engage in ongoing conversations with families to gather and share data and observations that will allow everyone to best support children's growth and wellbeing. The resources provided below provide information on this topic and offer interconnected information.

Instructional Videos

Based on what you know about yourself and your learning preferences, choose at least two of the videos below to learn about the topic. Notice that these resources build on one another around a common topic.

- [Sharing with families](#)
- [Importance of family information](#)
- [Practices in action: Gathering information from families](#)
- [Practices in action: Parent conference](#)
- [Practices in action: Family and Culture](#)

Supporting Materials

Review the articles below to become more familiar with ways to partner with families and effectively share data and observations.

- Foster Steen, B. (2022). [Five Rs for promoting positive family engagement](#). *Teaching Young Children*, 15(2).
- The National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (n.d.). [Getting started: Family engagement and positive goal-oriented relationships](#).
- Office of Head Start: NCPFCE. (2011). [Family Engagement and Ongoing Child Assessment \(Four Guides\)](#). Children's Hospital and Harvard Family Research Project.



Linked Media

Title

Sharing with families

Source Link

https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/v1_md_w2KpU87GyV35.mp4

Embeddable Media

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<iframe width="1280" height="960" src="https://earlyedu.webdamdb.com/embedvid.php?embedAssetId=w2KpU87GyV35&apm=0"
frameborder="0" scrolling="no" webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen allowfullscreen></iframe>
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Description

In this video educators are interviewed on sharing data with families. Educators describe formal and informal methods of communication, written communication including portfolios and work samples, data sharing during home visits, and incorporating home school activities based on data that parents can do at home.

Duration

3:57

Title

Importance of family information

Source Link

https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/v1_md_bfTpA7c8w6dw.mp4

Embeddable Media

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<iframe width="1280" height="960" src="https://earlyedu.webdamdb.com/embedvid.php?embedAssetId=bfTpA7c8w6dw&apm=0"
frameborder="0" scrolling="no" webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen allowfullscreen></iframe>
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Description

In this video educators are interviewed on the importance of communication with parents to get a complete picture of how the child is developing. At 2:09, a program manager describes how educators gather parent input to help gain assessment data and improve the home-school relationship.

Duration

3:04

Title

Practices in action: Gathering information from families

Source Link

https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/v1_md_1HCgpXrEIBP4.mp4

Embeddable Media

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<iframe width="1280" height="960" src="https://earlyedu.webdamdb.com/embedvid.php?embedAssetId=1HCgpXrEIBP4&apm=0"
frameborder="0" scrolling="no" webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen allowfullscreen></iframe>
```

Description

This video features a family visit. The educator and parent discuss the child's interests. The parent shares information and the educator asks questions to encourage their partnership.

Duration

6:17



Linked Media, cont.

Title
Practices in action: Parent conference
Source Link
https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/v1_md_gogSYXi1hJn1.mp4
Embeddable Media
<code><iframe width="1280" height="960" src="https://earlyedu.webdamdb.com/embedvid.php?embedAssetId=gogSYXi1hJn1&apm=0" frameborder="0" scrolling="no" webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen></iframe></code>
Description
In this video a parent conference with teacher, parent, occupational therapist (OT) and younger sibling is shown. The OT discusses multiple suggestions for fine motor skills, cutting and handwriting. The focus is on activities that can be done at home and at school. The OT makes suggestions using materials that the parent has or can create at home.
Duration
6:00

Title
Practices in action: Family and Culture
Source Link
https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md_lb3yjTvUcn7p.mp4?1657310563
Embeddable Media
<code><iframe width="550" height="413" src="https://earlyedu.webdamdb.com/embedvid.php?embedAssetId=lb3yjTvUcn7p&apm=0" frameborder="0" scrolling="no" webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen allowfullscreen></iframe></code>
Description
In this video two children and their mother bring in a poster representing their home country, Honduras. Two educators ask about the poster to the children and their mother. The educators engage the children in conversation, showing interest in the family's home and culture. They provide a respectful interaction and incorporate the name of a food in Spanish that the mother describes into the conversation. The children demonstrate a sense of identity and belonging, and a sense of themselves, family and community.
Duration
2:44

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