

Engaging Families Handout

Answer the questions below as you read and watch the following:

Steen Foster (2022)

1. What are the five R's to build trust and promote family engagement in ECE classrooms?
2. Complete the Chart: The 5 R's of Family Engagement

R	What is it?	Why families want it?	Strategies to Develop R
Respect			
Responsiveness & Reassurance			
Relationship			
Reciprocity			
Reflection			

Longley & Gilken (2025) p. 33-36

1. Why is partnering with families important in infant classrooms?
2. How do families and infant teachers best learn to partner?
3. Complete the Chart: Continuum of Partnership with Families

Process	Beliefs/Practices	Examples	Barriers/Limitations
Participation			
Involvement			
Engagement			
Collaboration			

4. What are culturally sustaining practices? How can they be used in infant programs?

TAPS: Partnerships with Families Part 1 of 5 (2012) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXKXPF0f0VM>

Question	Janani	Rukmini
What is your definition of partnerships?		
What is the relationship between family involvement and partnerships with families?		
How do you use partnerships to support children's learning?		

How does family describe their experience in Janani and the day care program?

Optional Reading: Halgunseth (2009)

1. Why is it important for there to be strong relationships between a program staff and families of young children?
2. What are the reasons for perceptions of low family engagement?
3. What is family engagement?
4. What is an ecological perspective?
5. What is social exchange theory?
6. How does trust impact the relationships between families and teachers?
7. What happens where there is a strong program-family partnership in place?
8. What are recommended practices to enhance family engagement?

Optional Reading: Koralek, Nemeth & Ramsey (2019)

1. What is family engagement? Define the attributes of family engagement.
2. What is the first step to engage a family?
3. What happens as relationships between infant teachers and families evolve?
4. What questions should infant teachers consider as they plan to engage families?
5. How can infant teachers develop a clear picture of who children's families are?
6. Why are family stories important?
7. Why is it important for infant teachers to include & interact with the men in a baby's life?
8. What should infant teachers consider when interacting with all family members?
9. What is a family space? Why is it important to have a family space?
10. Why should infant teacher offer a simple survey to families?
11. What are some strategies programs can use to support family engagement?
12. What does it mean to involve families in decision making? What are the benefits?
13. What does it mean to collaborate on community-wide efforts? What are the benefits?

Optional Reading: Allred & Hancock (2015)

1. What is servant leadership?
2. What factors contribute to the challenges of being a leader in ECE settings while partnering with families and providing family-centered services?
3. What is family-centered practice?
4. What is social influence?
5. What are power strategies that are typical in ECE settings?
6. What attributes of voluntary subordination connect to family-centered practices and partnering with families?
7. What is a servant leader's "authentic self"?
8. How is an infant teacher's authentic self manifest in family-centered practices and partnering with families?
9. What is responsible morality?
10. How does responsible morality woven into family-centered practices and partnering with families?
11. What are examples of ways infant teachers can become servant leaders and partner with families?