

Family Engagement Activities: Families as Important Key Partners



Family Initiated

At School District or Program Management Level

- Answer and return program and school surveys asking for input about help you would like to support your child's development and learning.
- Attend family activities and trainings that support families as lifelong educators.
- Volunteer to work in the classroom or community to support oral language and math skill development in young children.

At School or Program

- Begin early communications with your child's school or early learning program about how you can support early oral language and math skills development.
- Request teacher and program conferences to discuss your child's progress.
- Ask your child's teacher about mathematical concepts he or she is learning in school.

At Home

- Exercise your child's brain – talk with your child about the world; interact with your child often; be sensitive to your child's needs; and stimulate all your child's senses.
- Use communication to help manage your child's behaviors and emotions by offering explanations and praising the behavior, not the child.
- Help develop your child's oral language by naming and describing objects, naming your child's actions, and maintaining your child's attention on what interests him.
- Talk with your children about mathematical ideas in math language such as “how *many* do you need?” and “how *many* sides does that shape have?”
- Create and engage in meaningful mathematical activities such as having your child throw a basketball and count how many times the ball goes through the hoop.
- Play games that require math like board games with spinners and dice and card games that involve numbers.
- Use books to support mathematical development such as counting books and asking questions while reading mathematical books like “how many kittens on this page?” or “how many paws do you think they have together?”

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School/Program Initiated

At School District or Program Management Level

- Identify systems, supports, and resources to promote professional development and continuous quality improvement, the school/program environment, and partnerships related to families as lifelong educators.
- Incorporate strategies that support families as lifelong educators into school and program strategic frameworks and work plans.
- Support collaborative activities between schools, programs, and the community to strengthen family literacy programs.
- Conduct surveys to inform activities that help parents and caregivers support child learning and development.

At School or Program

- Facilitate meetings between families, teachers and staff to share information about child learning and development.
- Welcome families to observe and participate in their child's classroom or to do home-based activities.
- Provide opportunities for families to share tips for everyday learning practices.
- Support relationships between families and their children as part of foundational interactions around early oral language and math skills.

At Home

- Promote regular, effective, two-way communication with families about mathematical concepts their child is learning in school.
- Promote regular, effective, two-way communication with families about grade level reading expectations for their child.
- Provide information about how families can support oral language and math skills development at home with their children.
- Keep families informed on child progress through modes of communication and languages preferred by families.
- Call families early in the school or program year to report something positive about their child's oral language or math skills development.
- Provide a resource library that families can easily access and use to support their role as their child's lifelong educator.

A SMART CHILD IS NOT BORN; HE IS MADE!



Experiences in the **first 3 years of life** help your child build a **strong** brain and establish a **foundation for learning**



EXERCISE YOUR CHILD'S BRAIN!



Help him strengthen neural connections by:

- **Talking to him** about the world
- **Interacting** with him often
- **Being sensitive** to his needs
- **Stimulating** all of his senses

SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH YOUR CHILD EVERYDAY!



Your child will be more **cooperative**, he will trust you more, and he will have a higher self-esteem



RESPOND WARMLY TO YOUR CHILD'S SIGNALS!



- Your child uses **signals** to **communicate with you**
- Signals can be **positive** or **negative**
- Learn to recognize them and **respond immediately** and **sensitively**

HELP YOUR CHILD TO BE CONFIDENT AND TO FEEL SAFE!



Talk to him, **listen** to him, give him **choices**, and help him to **express himself**



USE COMMUNICATION TO HELP MANAGE YOUR CHILD'S BEHAVIORS & EMOTIONS!



- Offer **options** & **explanations**
- **Praise the behavior**, not the child
- **Talk** about **feelings**
- Give **1-2 step directions**
- **Say "no" less often**

BE THE PERSON YOUR CHILD COMES TO WHEN HE NEEDS TO TALK!



Starting early establishes the **foundation** for a **good relationship** for the rest of your lives



HELP DEVELOP YOUR CHILD'S ORAL LANGUAGE!



- **Name** and **describe** objects
- **Name** your child's **actions**
- **Maintain** your child's **attention** on what interests him
- When you talk, make sure you each take **at least 3 turns talking** back and forth