

Family Engagement Activities: Being Ready for School

School/Program Initiated

At School District or Program Management Level

- Identify systems, supports, and resources to promote professional development and continuous quality improvement, and partnerships related to child and family transitions including engaging families as partners in transition planning.
- Incorporate strategies that support families in successful child transitions into school/program strategic frameworks and work plans.
- Conduct joint transition trainings across early learning, elementary schools and local education agencies.

At School or Program

- Engage families in transition planning through information, orientations, trainings and connections to future early learning and school sites.
- Administer the DRDP-SR to inform child readiness.
- Discuss child assessment data regularly with families.
- Help families understand quality rating criteria.
- Encourage families to attend parent group meetings to learn more about sites, develop leadership skills, and make a difference in their community.
- Encourage families to volunteer and participate in their child's classroom.
- Provide families opportunities to share what support, resources, and training they believe will help them become more confident and active leaders in their child's school and their community.
- Provide advocacy training for families to develop and use advocacy skills in the context of their role as lifelong educators.
- Train staff to be responsive and respectful to the cultural practices of the families they serve.

At Home

- Identify the tools, resources and skills families need to achieve a family's plan goals.
- Promote open, respectful communication with families such as increasing family understanding about separation and family dynamics and how they impact a child, parent and others as children transition; use active listening techniques.
- Keep families informed on their child's progress in achieving transition milestones.
- Inform families about their rights under federal and state laws such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- Coordinate services for families transitioning between learning environments through program-school partnerships.

Family Engagement Activities: Being Ready for School

Family Initiated

At School District or Program Management Level

- Answer and return school and program surveys asking for input about help you would like to support your child's successful transition from an early learning program to school.
- Become a co-trainer of staff on challenges, hopes and dreams families have for their children.
- Use community resources that are available to support you and your child during transitions.

At School or Program

- Begin early communications with your child's school or early learning program about transition requirements.
- Schedule a meeting with your child's early learning program to develop a transition plan.
- Become a partner with your child's early learning and elementary school teacher by communicating and meeting regularly to discuss your child's developmental and learning progress.
- Seek out community resources that may support your child and your family in reaching developmental milestones.
- Share your family's values, beliefs, and culture with program and school staff.
- Connect with other families whose children are transitioning to share knowledge and information.
- Volunteer at your child's program or school.

At Home

- Develop a "Family Plan" that includes goals for the home, school, and community that you would like to achieve for yourself, your children and entire family.
- Visit early learning programs and elementary schools that your child may attend before enrollment to assess how they will meet your family's hopes and dreams.
- Ask your child's current early learning program to suggest activities you can do in the home with your child that will prepare him or her for a successful transition between learning environments.
- Make an appointment with your early learning program and local school to learn about readiness milestones and what resources are available to prepare and assist you and your child through the transition.