



Standards for Programs: Family Engagement

Program Standard 4:

The program implements strategies to ensure that families are engaged in meaningful opportunities to support their child's learning and are involved in program-level decision making.

Description:

Programs utilize a variety of strategies to become acquainted with and learn about the families in their program. This information is used to enhance the program curriculum. There are intentional strategies to create a welcoming environment for all families. Formal and informal methods are used for reciprocal communication with families about the program, the goals for their child, and to get input on their priorities. There is a continuum of opportunities for families to be engaged in all aspects of the program and in supporting their child's growth and development.

Indicators:

- The program has a written philosophy statement on family engagement that guides all aspects of partnerships with families.
- The program has a written plan that describes program practices for involving all families in program decision-making and as participants in their child's education.
- The program has a system that supports practitioners to develop competencies to enhance families' involvement in the program and in their child's learning and development.



Program Standard 4: Family Engagement Assessment Worksheet

Program Standard 4: The program implements strategies to ensure that families are engaged in meaningful opportunities to support their child’s learning and are involved in program-level decision making.

Indicator 1: The program has a written philosophy statement on family engagement that guides all aspects of partnerships with families.

Guiding Questions

- Does the program currently have a written philosophy statement on family engagement that is available to program staff, families, and other interested people?
- Does the statement include the program’s commitment to provide opportunities to engage families?
- Does the statement include the important role that families play in their child’s learning and development?
- Does the statement include the important role that families play in being involved in program-level decision-making?
- Is the philosophy statement written in a way that is understandable and clear to staff and families?

Program strengths:

Ways that our program can be strengthened and improved:

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Indicator 2: The program has a written plan that describes program practices for involving all families in program decision making and as participants in their child's education.

Guiding Questions

- Does the program have a written plan that describes the program's family engagement practices?
- Does the plan include strategies to get to know the families and for the families to get to know the staff and the program?
- Does the plan include strategies to provide an environment that is welcoming and engaging for families in the program?
- Does the plan include strategies to enhance reciprocal informal and formal communication between program staff and families?
- Does the plan include strategies for families to provide input on goals for their child?
- Does the plan include a continuum of opportunities for families to be involved in their child's education program?
- Does the plan include opportunities for families to be engaged in program-level decision making?

Program strengths:

Ways that our program can be strengthened and improved:

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Indicator 3: The program has a system that supports practitioners to develop competencies to enhance families' involvement in the program and in their child's learning and development.

Guiding Questions

- Is there a program-wide process for determining staff's strengths and needs in the area of family engagement?
- Does the process include self-reflection and feedback from administrators, peers, and families?
- Are staff members encouraged to be self-directed learners by engaging in an ongoing self-assessment of their competencies related to family engagement?
- Is there a written plan describing how the program supports the professional development of staff that is based on the strengths and needs of practitioners?
- Does the program's professional development plan utilize a variety of resources and strategies to support staff in acquiring needed competencies in the area of family engagement?

Program strengths:

Ways that our program can be strengthened and improved:

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Program Quality Improvement Plan

Program Standard 4: Implementing strategies to ensure that families are engaged in meaningful opportunities to support their child's learning and are involved in program-level decision making.

GOAL:		
Strategies	Time Frame	Progress

GOAL:		
Strategies	Time Frame	Progress

Date we will evaluate progress and reassess goals: _____