



What you will learn about Sharing Leadership: Partnering with Parents

QRIS Indicator for Step 3 Strengthening Families and Communities Standard: A communication system provides regular opportunities for connecting parents and staff.

Social and educational events and opportunities to volunteer are provided for families.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE: PARENT LEADERSHIP CREATES STRONGER FAMILIES AND MORE EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS.

Staff intentionally welcomes parents and acknowledges them as the most important people in their children's lives.

- FRIENDS National Resource Center
- NAEYC Standard 1: Relationships

Programs develop meaningful opportunities for parental engagement.

- NAEYC Standard 7: Families and Standard 10: Leadership and Management

What does this look like in practice?

- Staff recognize and affirm the essential role of parents in their child's life.
- Staff works in partnership with families, establishing and maintaining regular, ongoing, two-way communication.
- Program encourages volunteerism, and effectively matches parents' skills to volunteer and advocate opportunities.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE: THE ASSURANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO BUILDING MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS.

Programs provide written confidentiality policies and staff training to examine the importance of confidentiality as it relates to the right of individuals to control their personal information and not have it used by others against their wishes.

- NAEYC Standard 7: Families 7.B.01-06; 7.C.01-08
- Strengthening Families Self-Assessment for Centers and Family Child Care

Idaho Early Learning Guidelines: Goal 49, Domain 5, Subdomain: Communication

What does this look like in practice?

- Staff learn and intentionally incorporate the communication skills and everyday actions that support the development of trusting relationships.
- Programs create and regularly review confidentiality policies for both the parent and staff handbooks.
- Parents are made aware of confidentiality policies upon enrollment in the program.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE: TO TRULY ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF PROGRAMS, STAFF MUST RECOGNIZE PARENTS AS EQUAL PARTNERS IN DETERMINING WHAT WORKS BEST FOR FAMILIES AND INVOLVE THEM IN LEADERSHIP ROLES.

Staff intentionally employs everyday actions to help families recognize and build the five protective factors: parental resilience, social connection, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence.

- Center for the Study of Social Policy Strengthening Families; a Protective Factor Framework. *The Research Behind Strengthening Families*
- NAEYC Standard 7: Families 7.A.01; 7.A.02; 7.A.06; 7.A.08; 7.A.09

Program staff ensure that all families, regardless of family structure; socioeconomic, racial, religious, and cultural backgrounds; gender; abilities; or preferred language are included in all aspects of the program, including volunteer opportunities.

- NAEYC Standard 7: Families 7.A.11-14

What does this look like in practice?

- Program offers opportunities for meaningful parent involvement, input, and leadership at times and locations that are convenient for parents.
- Staff connect with parents on a regular basis through an established communication system.
- Staff responds to parents' ideas and values parent contributions.