



# Building Trusting Relationships with Families

Here are some different ways to lay the foundation for successful, supportive family engagement!

## Establishing a common ground and shared goal of supporting the child & family

**Ideas Include:** Home visits, meet-and-greets, open conversations; specifically including less formal activities that allow families and providers to learn more about each other.



## Demonstrating in multiple ways that families are valued

### **Ideas Include:**

- Day-to-day interactions ("Hi! It's great to have you here!", "We'd love to hear your feedback on this program matter")
- Welcoming environments that reflect families identities served (ex. Ethnicity, languages spoken, family structure)
- Opportunities to collaborate with early educators in serving their child/their child's group (ex. Family-led read-alouds, volunteering to support classroom projects like gardening)



## Working with each family to identify their family strengths

**Ideas Include:** Interviews, worksheets, creating a "strengths" map



## Highlighting cultural diversity of families

**Ideas Include:** Creating opportunities for families to share their cultural traditions, home language, images of different ethnicities/races and/or family structures, messaging in languages spoken)



## Dedicated interactions & program policies that give families actionable roles

Involve parents in decision-making processes and committees - like system improvement efforts, hiring committees, etc. [as we shared in last month's family engagement tip](#)

