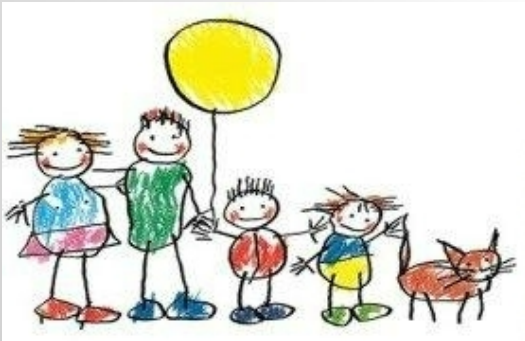


Module 5: Family Partnerships

Child Development



Objective- The student will recognize that families are the primary educators of children.

Please discuss these questions in your groups:

1. How are families the primary educators of children?
2. How can child care providers support families in this role?
3. Why is supporting families so important?

Four Main Types of Learning in young children

According to Katz, most of the learning happens through observations in daily life and are:

- Learned feelings
- Skills
- Knowledge
- Attitudes about learning

To Achieve High Quality Care

- Families must be recognized as the experts
- Treated with respect
- Acknowledged that they are their child's most important teacher



Objective- The Student can explain the elements of positive relationships and communication with families.

Discuss the following questions in your group:

1. Why is it important to build a partnership with children's families?
2. Why do families and child care providers conflict with one another at times?
3. How can you take the lead in creating positive provider-family relationships?

Partnership-

Is when both parties have equally important and unique roles in children's lives.

- A true partnership is supportive collaboration based on mutual interests.
- Both the family and the caregiver want the best for the child.

According to the Care Center Licensing Guidebook p. 89

“Best practice: Teachers and families work closely in partnerships to ensure high quality care and learning experiences for children and parents to feel supported and welcomed as observers and contributors to the program. Caregivers need to listen to parents, seek to understand their goals and preferences for their children and respect cultural and family differences.

Obstacles to Partnerships

- Lack of time and few opportunities
- Lack of understanding and appreciation of backgrounds
- Differences in values and view of children
- Mismatch modes of communication

Building Positive Relationships

- Establish trust
- Welcome families
- Have Open Communication
- Positive Communication
- Encourage Family Involvement
- Encourage Competence-Treat as knowledgeable partners

Objective- The student can recognize and value different community resources that support families.

Discuss the following questions in your groups:

1. What kinds of community resources are typically needed by families with young children?
2. Why are community resources valuable to families?

Types of Resources typically needed

- Housing, food, and social services
- Medical, dental, and mental health services
- Development screening and assessment
- Educational and recreation opportunities
- Services for children with special health needs
- Language assistance and resources in primary language

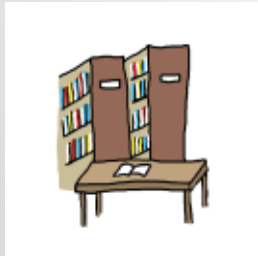
Sharing resources with families

- Identifying Resources
- Linking Families to Services
- Connecting Families with other families
- Easing transitions from your program to the next



Resources benefiting care providers

- The public library
- A children's museum
- Child Care Aware
- Public health Department
- Your School District



Volunteers as Resources

Families come with many different experiences, special talents, and backgrounds that can be beneficial to the learning experience.

