



# Bridging the Gap: Effective School-Home Strategies for Engaging Families in Children's Learning

TWO HOUR TRAINING



THE NURTURE  
— NETWORK —



# Introduction

Building strong partnerships between families, communities, and early childhood educators is essential for children's development and success. When families are engaged in their child's learning, children show higher academic achievement, better social-emotional skills, and a stronger sense of belonging. This training will explore practical strategies to foster meaningful school to home connections, create inclusive learning environments, and engage communities in early childhood education.

## Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the importance of home-school and community partnerships in early childhood education.
2. Identify strategies to strengthen family engagement and support children's learning at home.
3. Learn effective communication techniques to foster collaboration with families.
4. Explore ways to connect with community resources and organizations to enhance early childhood programs.
5. Develop an action plan for implementing family and community engagement initiatives in their own settings.

## Materials Needed:

- Printed training manual
- Pen/Pencil
- Access to online resources (optional)

# Establishing Consistent Communication

Clear and consistent communication is key to building strong relationships between educators and families. When parents are well-informed and actively involved, children benefit from a more supportive learning environment both at home and in the classroom. Using a variety of communication methods ensures that all families stay connected, engaged, and aware of their child's progress. The following strategies help create meaningful and ongoing communication with families.

## 1. Weekly Newsletters and Emails

Keeping parents informed about classroom activities, upcoming events, and ways to support their child's learning at home fosters a strong home-school connection. Weekly newsletters or emails provide a structured way to share important updates, including what children are learning, upcoming classroom events, and at-home activities that reinforce key concepts. These communications help parents feel involved and aware of their child's progress while also offering guidance on how they can extend learning beyond the classroom. Consistency in sending newsletters or emails ensures that parents remain engaged and well-informed throughout the school year.

### Engaging Ideas for Weekly Newsletters and Emails

- **Student Spotlights** – Feature a "Student of the Week" section highlighting a child's achievements, kind actions, or special interests. This fosters a sense of pride and encourages parents to engage in conversations with their child about their accomplishments.
- **Learning at Home Tips** – Provide simple, practical activities that families can do together to reinforce classroom learning. For example, suggest a fun counting game for math practice or a storytelling activity to build literacy skills.
- **Photo Highlights** – Include a few pictures of children engaged in classroom activities, projects, or special events. Visuals help parents feel more connected to what's happening in their child's learning environment.
- **Ask Your Child... Section** – Give parents conversation starters related to the week's lessons. For example, "Ask your child about the book we read on kindness today!" or "See if they can tell you one fun fact about insects!"
- **Parent Challenges** – Encourage family participation by adding small challenges, such as "Send in a family recipe to share with the class!" or "Try this science experiment at home and tell us what happened!"
- **Community Connections** – Share upcoming local events, library storytimes, or family-friendly activities happening in the community to encourage family outings that support learning.





## Classroom Apps for Engagement

Technology offers an effective way to maintain consistent communication with families. Classroom apps such as Seesaw or ClassDojo provide a platform for teachers to share updates, photos, and videos of daily activities, allowing parents to get a closer look at their child's learning experiences. These interactive tools enable real-time messaging, student progress tracking, and direct communication between educators and families. By using classroom apps, teachers can celebrate student achievements, share reminders, and encourage family participation in the learning process, creating a more connected and engaged school community.

- **Daily or Weekly Photo/Video Updates** – Share snapshots or short clips of children engaged in activities, special projects, or play-based learning. Parents love seeing what their child is doing throughout the day.
- **Interactive Polls and Questions** – Use features like polls or Q&A sections to get parent feedback on classroom activities, upcoming events, or preferred parent involvement opportunities.
- **Student-Led Reflections** – Record short audio or video clips of students explaining their work or reflecting on their learning, then share them with parents to encourage discussion at home.
- **Virtual Parent Shout-Outs** – Recognize and celebrate parent contributions by posting appreciation messages when they volunteer, donate materials, or support learning at home.

## Encouraging an Open-Door Policy

Creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where parents feel comfortable reaching out is essential for building strong relationships. An open-door policy reassures families that their questions, concerns, and input are valued. Teachers can foster this approach by offering flexible meeting times, encouraging informal conversations during drop-off and pick-up, and being available for virtual check-ins when needed. When parents feel heard and respected, they are more likely to engage actively in their child's education, strengthening the partnership between home and school.

- Offer parents the opportunity to schedule meetings at various times throughout the day or week, including evenings or weekends. This ensures that all parents, regardless of their work schedules, have the chance to meet with you. Consider using an online scheduling tool where parents can book a time that works best for them.
- Designate a specific time each week when parents are encouraged to drop in without an appointment. These hours allow parents to visit the classroom, ask questions, or simply chat informally about their child's progress. This makes the process feel more casual and accessible, encouraging ongoing communication.



# Creating Learning-Rich Environments at Home

Creating learning-rich environments at home can help reinforce what children learn in the classroom.

## Home Learning Kits

*Purpose:* To give parents easy-to-use tools that support their child's learning at home in a way that feels engaging and fun.

*Key Elements:*

### 1. Themed Learning Kits

Provide parents with kits that are aligned with the current classroom theme. For example, if the theme is "Animals," include animal flashcards, animal-themed puzzles, a picture book, and a mini animal figurine. These kits should be simple and easy to use, while encouraging exploration and imagination.

### 2. Interactive Materials

Choose materials that are hands-on and engaging. For example, wooden or laminated flashcards can be used to help with vocabulary building, or simple puzzles can improve fine motor skills. For math skills, consider adding counting beads or blocks that children can use to create and solve problems. Interactive learning reinforces learning in a playful, low-pressure environment.

### 3. Parent Instructions/Activity Ideas

Each kit should include a small guide or a set of instructions for parents. These instructions can provide suggestions for various activities that incorporate the materials, along with tips for how to engage children in learning. This helps parents feel more confident and involved in their child's development. For example, an activity might be: "Count the animals in the picture book together and use the flashcards to match each animal with its sound."

### 4. Variety and Flexibility

Change up the kits periodically to introduce new topics and keep children engaged. For example, one month might focus on shapes and colors, while another could focus on seasons or community helpers. Keep the kits adaptable to various age levels, allowing parents to adjust the complexity based on their child's individual needs.

### 5. Easy-to-Store Containers

To help parents keep everything organized, the kits should be packaged in a simple container—like a small plastic bin or a cloth bag—so they can easily store and access the materials without clutter.

This approach makes learning at home both fun and educational while giving parents the tools and confidence to help their child's development.



## At-Home Activities

*Purpose:* To provide parents with simple, engaging activities that they can do at home to support and extend the learning happening in the classroom.

*Key Activities:*

### 1. Counting Objects

- Objective: Reinforce number recognition and basic math skills.
- Activity: Ask children to count everyday items around the house, such as toys, fruit, or books. For added fun, challenge them to count in different ways (e.g., by twos, fives, or tens). Parents can turn this into a scavenger hunt by giving the child a list of things to count, like "Find 5 red blocks" or "How many pillows are on the couch?"
- Tip for Parents: Encourage children to say the numbers aloud to improve number recognition and pronunciation.

### 2. Drawing and Storytelling

- Objective: Develop creativity and literacy skills.
- Activity: Ask children to draw pictures based on what they've learned in class. For example, if the theme is weather, they could draw clouds, rain, or a rainbow. Afterward, encourage them to create a short story about their drawing, practicing verbal storytelling skills. Parents can write down the child's words as they dictate them to practice early writing skills.
- Tip for Parents: Focus on the process, not just the product. Encourage children to talk about their drawings and share their thoughts about the characters or scene they created.

### 3. Letter Practice with Household Items

- Objective: Reinforce letter recognition and writing skills.
- Activity: Have children practice writing their names, letters, or simple words using a variety of materials like sand, flour, or even shaving cream spread on a tray. Alternatively, parents can use household items (like cereal, pasta, or stickers) to create letters that the child can trace or arrange to form simple words.
- Tip for Parents: Turn it into a game by calling out letters or simple words for children to find or create, reinforcing the connection between letters and sounds.

### 4. Shape Sorting and Building

- Objective: Reinforce knowledge of shapes and spatial awareness.
- Activity: Parents can use toys or everyday objects (blocks, lids, paper, etc.) to introduce and reinforce shapes. Ask children to sort objects by shape or build things with blocks in specific shapes (e.g., build a house using squares and triangles).
- Tip for Parents: Name the shapes as the child uses them to reinforce shape recognition.

## 5. Matching Games

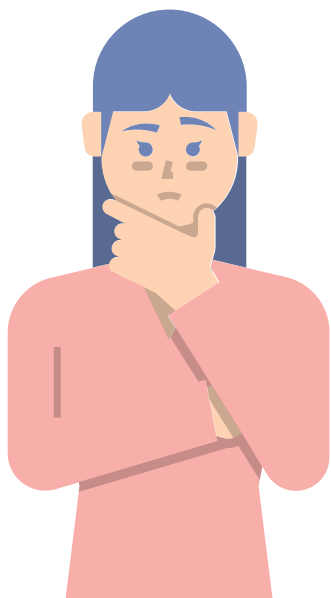
- Objective: Enhance memory and cognitive skills.
- Activity: Create simple matching games using flashcards, pictures, or even real objects. For example, parents can create pairs of cards that match (e.g., a picture of an apple and the word "apple," or two pictures of the same animal) and play a memory game where children try to find the matching pairs. This can be adapted for any learning theme—colors, animals, numbers, etc.
- Tip for Parents: Mix up the complexity of the games over time. Start with fewer cards and increase the number of matches as the child's memory improves.

## 6. Role-Playing and Pretend Play

- Objective: Foster social and emotional development while reinforcing learning concepts.
- Activity: Encourage children to pretend they are teachers, doctors, or community helpers, depending on the theme they are exploring in class. For example, if the theme is community helpers, children can role-play as firefighters or doctors using household items like toy phones, stethoscopes, or aprons.
- Tip for Parents: Ask open-ended questions during the play, such as, "What do you think a firefighter does?" or "How does the doctor help people feel better?"

These at-home activities support children's learning and offer parents a way to engage with their child's development. The key is to keep activities fun, interactive, and tied to what children are learning in the classroom, reinforcing key concepts while fostering creativity and exploration.

## Reflection



Think about a recent classroom theme you taught. How can you incorporate at-home activities to help parents reinforce that theme in a fun and engaging way?

Choose one activity (such as counting, drawing, or practicing letters) and brainstorm how you would share it with parents. What materials would you suggest they use, and how could you make it simple yet impactful for them to implement at home?

# Routine Integration for Parents

*Goal:* Help parents see everyday activities as valuable opportunities for learning. Teachers can guide parents in turning daily routines into enriching learning moments.

Example Ideas:

- **Mealtime Learning:** Encourage parents to use mealtime to practice concepts like shapes (e.g., “What shape is your sandwich?”), colors (e.g., “What color is your apple?”), or counting (e.g., “How many carrots are on your plate?”). This promotes learning while reinforcing healthy habits.
- **Chores as Learning Moments:** Suggest that parents turn chores like setting the table into math practice (e.g., “How many plates do we need for dinner?”), or folding laundry into a sorting activity (e.g., sorting by size or color). This teaches responsibility and basic problem-solving skills.
- **Interactive Discussions:** Encourage parents to talk with their children during routines. For example, while grocery shopping, they can discuss the shapes and sizes of items, or talk about what goes into making a balanced meal.

## How Teachers Can Help:

Teachers can assist parents by offering practical examples during the training and encouraging them to share their own ideas with others. Suggest that providers emphasize the idea that these small, everyday moments are powerful learning opportunities, making it clear that even routine tasks can be fun and educational.

Think about a common routine in your own life, such as mealtime, grocery shopping, or cleaning. How can you adapt this routine to help parents see the potential for learning and development? What tips can you share with parents to make the experience enjoyable and educational for their child?





# Encouraging Parent-Led Learning

As a childcare provider, one of the most powerful ways to extend children's learning is by encouraging parents to take an active role in their education at home. Parent-led learning fosters a deeper connection between parents and their children, while also reinforcing the skills and concepts learned in the classroom. When parents engage in hands-on activities with their children, they not only promote academic development but also strengthen family bonds and create memorable experiences.

## Simple Ideas for Parents to Try

### 1. Gardening:

Gardening is a fantastic way to teach children about nature, responsibility, and the science behind plant growth. It encourages patience and can easily involve math (counting seeds, measuring soil) and science (understanding the needs of plants).

### 2. Baking Together:

Baking helps children practice important skills such as following instructions, measuring ingredients, and even understanding basic math concepts like fractions. Plus, it's a fun way for parents and children to collaborate in a meaningful activity.

### 3. Simple Science Experiments:

Hands-on experiments, like making a volcano eruption or creating a rainbow with a glass of water, teach children about scientific processes and observation skills. These types of activities foster curiosity and encourage children to ask questions and make predictions.

These projects offer rich learning opportunities and promote family collaboration, ensuring that learning extends beyond the classroom and into everyday life.



# Interactive Read-Alouds

Reading is one of the most powerful ways to support children's language development, and when parents are actively involved in the process, it creates an enriching learning experience. Interactive read-alouds are a great way for parents to foster a love of books, promote critical thinking, and strengthen communication skills. By making reading a fun and interactive experience, parents can help their child connect with stories in a meaningful way, while also enhancing comprehension and language skills.

Tips for Engaging Children During Read-Alouds:

## 1. Ask Open-Ended Questions:

Encourage parents to ask questions that stimulate thinking and conversation. Instead of just asking, "What color is the car?", they could ask, "Why do you think the character chose to go on this adventure?" or "What do you think will happen next in the story?" These questions invite children to make connections and predict outcomes, boosting comprehension and engagement.

## 2. Make Predictions:

Help children get involved in the storytelling by asking them to predict what might happen next in the story. Before turning the page, parents can ask, "What do you think is going to happen?" or "How do you think the character feels right now?" This encourages critical thinking and sparks their imagination.

## 3. Encourage Discussion:

After reading, it's helpful for parents to discuss the story with their child. They could ask things like, "What was your favorite part of the book?" or "What do you think the lesson of this story is?" Talking about the story helps children process what they've read and solidifies learning.

## 4. Use Expression and Voice:

Reading aloud isn't just about the words—it's about how the story is told! Parents can engage their child more by using different voices for characters, varying their tone, and acting out parts of the story. This makes the experience more entertaining and helps keep children's attention.

## 5. Relate the Story to Real Life:

Encourage parents to make connections between the story and their child's life. If the story talks about a pet, for example, parents can ask, "Do you have a pet like the one in the book? What do you like to do with your pet?" These connections help children see the relevance of what they're reading and make it more relatable.

*Interactive read-alouds don't just improve literacy skills—they also help build strong bonds between parents and children, making reading a shared experience full of fun and learning.*

# Setting Goals Together

Goal-setting is a key strategy in fostering growth and development in children. When parents and caregivers work together to set personalized, realistic goals, children have a clear sense of what they are working toward. Not only does this approach guide academic and social-emotional growth, but it also strengthens the partnership between educators and families. It's a collaborative process that empowers everyone involved, including the child!

## **Start with Strengths:**

Encouraging parents to focus on their child's strengths helps create a positive foundation for goal-setting. Start by discussing areas where the child excels and then think about how these strengths can be leveraged to achieve goals. For example, if a child loves storytelling, a great goal might be improving verbal expression or expanding vocabulary.

## **Keep Goals Specific and Achievable:**

It's easy for goals to become too broad or overwhelming. Help parents break down large goals into smaller, achievable steps. For example, instead of a general goal like "improve reading skills," set a more specific goal such as "read one new book independently each week" or "recognize 10 new sight words this month."

## **Balance Academic and Social-Emotional Goals:**

Encourage parents to set a mix of academic and social-emotional goals. For example, an academic goal might focus on enhancing literacy, while a social-emotional goal could focus on developing positive peer interactions. A good balance of both ensures the child is growing in every aspect of their development.

## **Make Goals Child-Centered:**

Involve the child in setting their own goals. Even young children can participate by identifying things they'd like to learn or work on. For example, parents could ask, "What would you like to get better at this month?" or "What's one thing you want to do more of at school?" This empowers the child to take ownership of their learning journey.

## **Regularly Review and Adjust Goals:**

Goal-setting is an ongoing process. Encourage parents to check in regularly with their child about their progress. Reviewing goals gives children the chance to celebrate small successes and adjust goals if needed. It also helps parents stay involved and informed about their child's development.



## Tracking Progress: Celebrating Milestones

Tracking a child's progress is a wonderful way to celebrate their growth and achievements. It helps parents recognize milestones, stay motivated, and see how their child is developing over time. By using simple tools, parents can make this process fun and meaningful.

Simple Tools for Tracking Progress:

### Progress Chart:

A visual tool, like a progress chart, helps children and parents see achievements at a glance. Create a chart with small goals (e.g., reading a new book, learning a new math concept) and mark off each accomplishment. It's a great way to celebrate success and keep the child motivated!

### Achievement Notebook:

Encourage parents to keep a notebook where they jot down key milestones, memorable moments, and new skills their child is learning. This can be a fun activity for children as well, where they can add their own drawings or stickers to show what they've accomplished.

### Digital Apps:

For tech-savvy parents, there are several apps available that track development milestones. These can be helpful for keeping a detailed record of academic, physical, and emotional growth.

## Reflection

Think about the following:

**What is one milestone or achievement you've noticed in a child recently?**

**How could you help parents celebrate this milestone with a simple tracking tool?**

Example:

A child recently learned to tie their shoes. Parents could mark this achievement on a progress chart with a sticker or note in their achievement notebook.



# Providing Parent Education

As childcare providers, we know the power of sharing knowledge. Parent workshops are your opportunity to partner with families and equip them with practical tools to support their child's growth. Whether it's understanding developmental milestones or learning new discipline techniques, these workshops foster a collaborative relationship between you and the families you serve.

Workshop Ideas to Inspire Parents:

## **"Growing Together: Understanding Child Development"**

A fun, interactive session where parents learn about the stages of development and how to support each one. Think about hands-on activities or games that highlight key milestones!

## **"Positive Discipline: Building Respectful Connections"**

A workshop dedicated to creating strong relationships through positive discipline strategies. Encourage parents to share their own experiences and build a toolkit of strategies that work for their family.

## **"Learning at Home: Simple Strategies for Big Impact"**

Share practical, easy-to-implement ideas that bring learning into everyday moments, from mealtime math to storytelling during playtime. The goal is for parents to leave with actionable steps they can use right away.

- **What challenges do you notice parents face most?**
- **How can you make the workshop fun and practical?**



### **Remember:**

Parent workshops don't have to be one-size-fits-all. Get creative and tailor them to the needs of your community



# Incorporating Family Cultures and Values: Embracing Diversity in Learning



A child's background is a powerful asset in their learning journey. By incorporating the cultural traditions, stories, and languages of the families you work with, you create an inclusive learning environment that celebrates diversity and fosters a sense of belonging. Encouraging parents to share their cultures not only helps children feel valued but also enriches the classroom experience for all.

Ways to Incorporate Culturally Relevant Learning:

## **Invite Parents to Share Stories & Traditions**

Encourage families to bring their unique traditions to the classroom—whether it's through storytelling, music, or special cultural celebrations. These moments build connections and offer children a wider perspective of the world.

## **Language Inclusion**

Support language diversity by welcoming bilingual or multilingual students and encouraging parents to teach the classroom key words or phrases from their language. For example, you could learn to say “hello” in a variety of languages or use greetings in different languages to start the day.

## **Celebrate Cultural Holidays**

Work with families to plan events or activities that reflect the various holidays and festivals celebrated by the children in your care. This can be a simple, fun way to introduce new ideas, foods, and customs to the whole class.



**How might you involve parents in this process, making sure they feel welcomed and valued in contributing?**

## Celebrating Family Diversity: Embracing All Cultures in the Classroom



Diversity is a source of strength. By celebrating family backgrounds and cultures, we create an inclusive space where every child feels proud of their heritage and connected to others. These celebrations also provide opportunities for children to develop empathy, respect, and appreciation for the richness of different cultures.

- Host Cultural Celebration Days:

Idea: Set aside specific days to celebrate the diverse cultures of your students.

Example: Parents can organize activities that reflect their culture, such as cooking, storytelling, music, or dances.

Why it Works: It gives children a hands-on experience with different traditions and practices, making cultural learning more vivid and meaningful.

- Family Heritage Sharing:

Idea: Invite parents to share something meaningful about their culture during a designated "Family Day."

Example: Parents can bring in cultural artifacts, teach a traditional song, or share a short presentation on a family tradition.

Why it Works: It helps families feel engaged and allows children to bond with their peers over shared experiences.

- Cultural Craft Workshops:

Idea: Organize crafting sessions where children create art inspired by different cultures.

Example: Make traditional masks, paper lanterns, or fabric crafts based on various cultures' art forms.

Why it Works: These creative activities allow children to learn about cultural traditions in an interactive, hands-on way.

### Quick Tips for Organizing a Cultural Celebration:

**Get Parent Input:** Before planning a cultural celebration, ask parents to share their interests and cultural background, and how they would like to be involved.

**Respect All Cultures:** Ensure that celebrations respect and honor the diversity of all families, offering a range of activities that reflect different traditions.

**Promote Inclusivity:** Remind children that everyone's heritage is valuable, fostering an atmosphere of respect and curiosity.

# Parent Feedback and Input: Gathering Insights for Continuous Improvement

Gathering regular feedback from parents helps you better understand their child's progress, identify areas for improvement, and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

## Surveys

Surveys allow parents to share their thoughts anonymously, making them feel comfortable providing honest feedback about classroom activities and their child's experience. Include questions about their child's development, their satisfaction with your activities, and any suggestions for improvement.

## Feedback Forms

A quick and easy form can be filled out after an event or activity. It gives parents a chance to reflect and provide insights on specific areas of interest. Simple questions regarding specific events or activities and space for any additional suggestions.

## Regular Check-ins

Offering ongoing opportunities for feedback, such as through emails or brief meetings, ensures parents have a chance to stay engaged throughout the year. Keep the process informal and flexible to make it easy for parents to reach out when needed.

Have you felt welcome in your child's classroom this year as a parent/guardian?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Other

How many times have you visited your child's classroom this year, apart from pick-up and drop-off?

☐ Never

☐ 1-3 times

☐ 3-6 times

☐ 6-10 times

☐ More than 10 times

Approximately, how much time are you able to read to your child in a week?

☐ Never

☐ 20 minutes or less

☐ 20-60 minutes

☐ More than 1 hour

## **Parent-Teacher Conferences: Building a Collaborative Partnership**

Parent-teacher conferences are an essential opportunity for open communication between you and the parents, allowing both sides to discuss the child's progress, challenges, and strategies for growth.

Key Elements of Effective Conferences:

### **Collaborative Dialogue**

Approach: Frame the conversation as a partnership. Encourage parents to share their observations and concerns, while you provide insights from the classroom.

Goal: Work together to identify strengths and areas for improvement, and align on strategies that can support the child's development both at school and at home.

### **Focused Conversations**

Approach: Use the conference to discuss specific aspects of the child's learning (e.g., social-emotional growth, academic progress, behavior) rather than a general overview.

Goal: Create clear, actionable goals based on the child's unique needs and strengths.

### **Solution-Focused Strategies**

Approach: Discuss practical strategies that both you and the parents can implement to support the child.

Goal: Ensure the child's success by setting realistic goals and keeping the lines of communication open for follow-up.

#### *Tip for Success:*

*Provide parents with a summary of the meeting and action items afterward to keep everyone on the same page and ensure continued progress.*

**What strategies will you use to ensure the conference feels like a two-way conversation?**

**How will you incorporate parent input into the child's learning plan moving forward?**

## Additional Resources

### 1. Books:

- The Power of Parent Engagement in Early Childhood Education – by Judy Jablon & Charlotte Stetson
- How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk – by Adele Faber & Elaine Mazlish
- The Read-Aloud Handbook – by Jim Trelease

### 2. Websites:

- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC): [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org) – Resources on family engagement and early childhood development.
- Zero to Three: [www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org) – Research and tips on early childhood development and parent engagement.
- Reading Rockets: [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org) – Strategies for interactive read-alouds and literacy development.

### 3. Articles & Reports:

- "Family Engagement in Early Learning Programs: A Research-Based Guide" – Harvard Graduate School of Education
- "The Benefits of Parent-Teacher Partnerships" – National PTA
- "Culturally Responsive Teaching in Early Childhood Classrooms" – Center for Responsive Schools

### 4. Videos & Webinars:

- TED Talk: "The Power of a Parent's Words" – Rita Pierson
- Webinar: "Engaging Families in Early Learning" – Hosted by the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center
- YouTube Channel: NAEYC – Offers short videos on play-based learning, literacy, and family involvement

## Sources

1. Harvard Graduate School of Education. (2021). *Family engagement in early learning programs: A research-based guide*.
2. National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). (n.d.). *Family engagement strategies for early learning programs*.
3. Vukelich, C., Enz, B., Roskos, K., & Christie, J. (2020). *Helping young children learn language and literacy: Birth through kindergarten* (5th ed.). Pearson.
4. Zero to Three. (n.d.). *Parent-teacher collaboration in early childhood education*. Retrieved from <https://www.zerotothree.org>
5. Zoll, S., Feinburg, J., & Saylor, C. (2023). *Powerful literacy in the Montessori classroom: Aligning reading research and practice*. Routledge.



# **Bridging the Gap: Effective School-Home Strategies for Engaging Families in Children's Learning**

Two Hour Training

Page 1 of 3

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Four SSN: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Multiple Choice Questions***

### **1. What is the main purpose of Parent-Teacher Conferences?**

- a) To report the child's academic grades
- b) To have a one-sided conversation about the child's performance
- c) To share insights and collaborate on strategies for supporting the child
- d) To finalize academic goals for the child

### **2. Which of the following is a key aspect of creating a learning-rich environment at home?**

- a) Only focusing on academic subjects
- b) Engaging children in hands-on activities such as cooking, gardening, or building simple science experiments
- c) Limiting children's access to learning tools
- d) Avoiding outdoor playtime

### **3. When incorporating learning into daily routines, which of the following is NOT recommended?**

- a) Using mealtime to practice shapes, colors, or simple math
- b) Turning chores into opportunities for responsibility-building
- c) Focusing solely on homework after school
- d) Encouraging problem-solving during routine tasks

### **4. Which of the following should be the focus when setting individualized learning goals for a child?**

- a) The child's ability to memorize facts
- b) Specific, achievable goals that align with the child's academic or social-emotional needs
- c) Group goals that match the entire class's needs
- d) Goals based on the child's peers' progress

### **5. What is an effective way to track a child's progress?**

- a) Using a progress chart or notebook to record milestones and achievements
- b) Ignoring small achievements and only focusing on major milestones
- c) Relying on parent's verbal feedback alone
- d) Skipping the tracking process and reviewing progress only at conferences

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Four SSN: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

**6. What is the main benefit of interactive read-alouds?**

- a) They help children memorize stories
- b) They allow children to practice listening skills only
- c) They encourage children to make predictions, ask questions, and engage in discussions about the story
- d) They focus only on reading comprehension

**7. Why should providers encourage parents to share their culture's traditions, stories, and language?**

- a) To promote cultural homogenization
- b) To create a more inclusive learning environment where children's backgrounds are valued
- c) To focus on global education only
- d) To limit discussions to one culture

**8. What is a good example of a family activity that encourages hands-on learning and collaboration?**

- a) Watching educational TV together
- b) Reading silently in the same room
- c) Building a simple science experiment together
- d) Sitting quietly during mealtime

**9. How can parents support their child's learning through project-based activities?**

- a) By doing all the work for the child to ensure the project is completed
- b) By offering a variety of open-ended activities, such as gardening or baking, that foster creativity and critical thinking
- c) By focusing only on academic projects
- d) By setting rigid instructions for each activity

**10. What should be included in a parent workshop?**

- a) A strict, scheduled agenda with no room for parent input
- b) Informational sessions about child development, discipline, and supporting learning at home
- c) A lecture-based presentation without interactive elements
- d) Only one-way communication from the provider to the parents

**Bridging the Gap: Effective School-Home Strategies for Engaging Families in Children's Learning**

Two Hour Training

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Four SSN: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

***Short Answer Questions***

How can you involve parents in creating individualized learning goals for their child?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe one creative strategy you would use to help parents integrate learning into their daily routines at home.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Completed trainings can be submitted to: [connect@thenurture.net](mailto:connect@thenurture.net)