



Partnering with Families in Assessment

LEARN FROM FAMILIES

Families know their children better than anyone else and have valuable information to share with you.

- Learn from families about their beliefs and values and what they consider important for their children's experiences in your early learning setting.
- Encourage families to tell you about their children's interests and activities at home.
- Listen to families' observations of their children and document what the families say to add to children's portfolios.

SHARE WITH FAMILIES

Sharing information with families helps them become actively involved in their children's development and learning.

- Share specific observations of children and use portfolios to illustrate examples.
- Emphasize the positive aspects of children's work and behavior.
- Ask yourself what assumptions you are making about children's behavior and adjust your interpretations if necessary before sharing observations with families.

COLLABORATE WITH FAMILIES

Remember, families are your partners in supporting children's development and learning.

- Together, review observational data and interpret the evidence.
- Ask the families' perspective on observations and invite them to share information about how they see particular skills developing at home.
- Listen to families and use their input in planning experiences and activities.
- Engage families as co-decision makers in planning developmental and learning goals for their children.
- Connect the observations families share about their children's interests and activities at home with similar skills children are practicing in your early learning setting.

To learn more about partnering with families and others in observation, check out:

- [Observation, Screening, Assessment, and Documentation: Seek Multiple Perspectives](http://ececampsat.org/competencies/osad/osad-perspectives.html) on the California ECE CompSAT website:
<http://ececampsat.org/competencies/osad/osad-perspectives.html>



Partnering with Families in Assessment

Taking It Home—Partnering with Teachers/Providers in Assessment

As a family member, you play a critical role in your child's early education, including the assessment of development and learning. You can support your child's development and learning through communicating with the teacher/provider about what you see and notice at home.

Here are some ways to collaborate with your child's teacher/provider in the assessment process:

SHARE ABOUT YOUR CHILD AND FAMILY.

- Share specific observations about your child's interests and any new skills being practiced.
- Talk with your child's teacher/provider about what is important to your family for your child's experience in the learning setting.
- Send your child's teacher/provider pictures or written stories about your family and what you enjoy doing together.

ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CHILD.

- Ask about what your child likes to do in the program.
- Ask for the teacher's/provider's perspective about your child's learning and development of different skills.
- Request additional information or resources to help you better understand what you can expect from your child at different stages of development.

COLLABORATE WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER/PROVIDER.

- Ask your child's teacher/provider about their interpretations of assessment data and offer your thoughts.
- Talk with your child's teacher/provider about the learning goals you have for your child. Make a plan together to meet those goals.
- Discuss what you can do to support your child's learning and development at home.

For more information and tips about communicating with your child's teacher/provider, check out the National Association for the Education of Young Children's (NAEYC) article titled, [Parent-Teacher Conferences](http://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/child-development/parent-teacher-conferences):

<http://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/child-development/parent-teacher-conferences>