



Knowing Families and Their Culture

Utilize these different strategies promote stronger relationships between families and program staff.

	More detail
Strategies for better knowing families	
Provide time in program orientation meetings at the beginning of the year for families to get to know one another and connect with staff	
Sponsor discussions and support groups	
Set aside program space for families to use to meet, talk, and support one another	
Learn about families by talking to program youth	
Plan projects that encourage youth to talk with family members about their culture, upbringing, and dreams for the future	
Visit the neighborhoods, popular meeting places, and other important locations of your program families	
Make families feel comfortable visiting and helping out with the program by consistently providing opportunities for them to do so	
Learn about and honor the cultures of program families and youth	
Do home visits if possible	
Go to sporting events and music- and art-related performances for program youth	
Create or improve your parent/family handbook	
Gather information and feedback on your engagement efforts to revise accordingly	
Find big (family nights, program orientation, etc.) and small (phone calls, chatting with families when they pick up youth, etc.) ways to better know and understand families	
Find translators and use translated materials whenever necessary	
Other	
Other	



This tool is in the public domain. Authorization to reproduce it in whole or in part is granted. This tool was funded by the U.S. Department of Education in 2011 under contract number EDOESE-90-000040. The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the Department or the contractor. Learn more about professional development planning and 21st CCLC learning at <http://y4y.ed.gov>.

