



## Family Engagement Activity Types

Below is a list of the five family engagement activity types. Included is the definition, activity examples, why the activity is important and a tip!

### Skill-Based Activity

**Definition:** Skill-based activities help adults attain new knowledge and skills.

**Activities might include:** GED preparation; ESL lessons or practice; workforce development seminars (e.g., resume writing, interviewing); nutrition and healthy living classes; courses on best practices in childrearing; and workshops on navigating schools, districts and educational programs.

**Why skill-based activities are important:** As families gain knowledge and skills, they become better equipped to support and advocate for their children, and more confident in their abilities. Also, their involvement in self-development, personal growth and lifelong learning sets a good example and makes them good role models for their children.

**Tip:** Carefully design activities that teach new skills or develop talents to ensure that they don't make families feel "singled out," embarrassed or stigmatized.

### Enrichment Activity

**Definition:** Enrichment activities provide experiences that adults find engaging, stimulating and enjoyable.

**Activities might include:** Painting, jewelry making, Zumba, group attendance at a cultural or sports event.

**Why enrichment activities are important:** Enrichment activities can spark new interests or hobbies, awaken dormant talents and build social bonds as families have enjoyable experiences together in a relaxed atmosphere. These activities encourage friendship, collaboration and laughter. As adults build relationships with other families and with program staff, they will be more likely to attend additional program activities.

**Tip:** Involving families in selecting, planning or implementing enrichment activities can help them feel invested and committed to attending. Create opportunities for them to share their own stories, experiences and talents.



## Family Engagement Activity Types

### Family and Student Shared Activity

**Definition:** Family-student shared activities allow family members to support their child's learning and development in new ways.

**Activities might include:** Educational game night, educational movie night, family collaborative science fair or star party, family college tours, college and career planning events with counselors and other trained personnel.

**Why family-student shared activities are important:** Engaging families in fun educational activities with their children in a safe and supportive environment can strengthen relationships among program staff, family members and students. The effects of these activities can carry over into the home as families learn and play together, discuss and build on positive experiences, and become confident and comfortable in the role of their child's first and most important teacher.

**Tip:** Communication is the key to engaging adults in family-student shared activities. Let families know well in advance when an activity is planned and how it will benefit them and their children. Include details about times, locations, whether child care or transportation will be available, and so forth.

### Leadership Activity

**Definition:** Leadership activities empower families by engaging them in leadership and decision-making roles.

**Activities might include:** Family members serve on the program planning team, spearhead special events and programs, write a column or blog post for the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC newsletter, serve as advocates for the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program in the community, and serve as mentors for other families.

**Why leadership activities are important:** Leadership activities empower families and engage them in decision-making. Through these activities, families feel valued and are more likely to take ownership in the program's success, become champions and advocates for their children and for the program, and become more involved in program planning and implementation.

**Tip:** Build on the strengths and interests of students' families by inviting them to take leadership on a certain task or project. Also, look for ways to develop leadership skills. For example, someone wants to join a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program planning team, consider inviting that person to sit in on a few meetings prior to formal involvement.



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### Resource-Linking Activity

**Definition:** Resource-linking activities help families connect with school and community resources.

**Activities might include:** Notifications about community events such as health, education or job fairs; workshops on community resources; referrals to social services agencies; awareness campaigns on how families can advocate for themselves and their children; coupons and discounts for families.

**Why resource-linking activities are important:** Schools and community organizations may have readily available resources that can help support families. However, if families are unaware of these resources, they will not be able to benefit from them. Resource-linking activities introduce families to free or low-cost goods and services that can help them meet student and family needs. These services and resources might include community education classes; food/clothing/school supply drives, school-based referrals to local social service agencies, a map of free Wi-Fi zones in the area, and coupons and discounts connected to school-provided vouchers.

**Tip:** Involving school and community partners helps 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs serve students and achieve program SMART goals by helping families meet their needs. Often, people and organizations in the community are happy collaborate, but first, you have to ask!