



Supporting and Engaging Families

Directions: Successful family engagement requires continual efforts to engage and support families in your program. Review the strategies below and customize them to meet the needs of program families.

Strategy	Our Plan
Develop their own skills and talents	
Provide information on adult literacy, GED, and ESL classes in the community.	Ex. We will partner with the local library to promote and support the existing ESL classes held there each week.
Conduct a job skills or resume-writing event for parents.	Ex. We will hold a four week series of technology classes starting March 1st. Ms. Smith, our computer teacher, will lead the classes and Vivian will stay to provide childcare.
Conduct parenting classes, or connect parents to classes in the community.	
Engage in fun and educational activities with their children	
Plan and implement family events several times a year.	
Remind families about the importance of family involvement by sharing research on how it improves youth’s academic and life outcomes.	
Involve families in projects and special events.	
Find innovative and engaging ways to get to know your program families.	
Incorporate program youth into designing and providing different involvement opportunities.	
Participate in running out-of-school time programs	
Invite parents to become members of your advisory committee.	
Create a program “Family Handbook” which clearly welcomes families and offers them ways to get involved.	
Work with families to include their input when creating culturally sensitive program materials.	
Connect with schools and with community resources	
Think of your program as a hub where families can share ideas and resources, seek out support, and problem solve with other families or staff. Partner with groups or organizations where appropriate.	
Go off-site. Visit families at places of worship, popular meeting spots, and their homes.	
Create a space at your site for families to network, talk to staff members, and connect with community resources.	
Other:	

