

# 3.7 Creating Partnerships: Increasing Parents Involvement in Early Learning

## Questions to consider:

Who were the people who were invested in your learning? How did this impact your academic success?

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## Why are getting ideas from parents important?

Involving parents in children's early learning influences children's future success in school. Regardless of their economic, culture, or racial background, academic achievement improves when there is good parent engagement.

## The Outcome:

1. Parents recognize the role they play in children's learning and future school success.
2. Parents feel more equipped to support children's success.
3. The parent-child relationship is enhanced.
4. You can adapt your program to meet the needs of children and families, thus enriching your program.
5. Mutual respect is established between you and the parent.
6. Parents feel vested in the program as they feel valued and supported.

SEEKING PARENT INPUT OR GETTING IDEAS ON HOW TO RESPOND TO OR ADDRESS A NEED, DEMONSTRATES TO THE PARENT THAT THEIR WISDOM, EXPERIENCE, AND DESIRES ARE VALUABLE.

## Steps:

1. Engage parents in completing a developmental screener (for example ASQ)
2. Talk to parents about results and provide resources regarding child development.
3. Offer opportunities for parents to engage in play or early learning activities.
4. Encourage parents to read with children. Provide books or take home activities.
5. Check in on progress and assure parents that their involvement is important.
6. Further engage parents in your program by:
  - Creating opportunities for them to volunteer.
  - Offering events for parents to connect to each other.

## Putting it to practice

What are some child development or early learning resources you could share with parents? How will you include these in your program?

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