

PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT BY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN (NAEYC).

There are six principles for effective family engagement, including co-design, two-way communication, reciprocal relationships and systemic family engagement.

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This publication from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) outlines six principles of effective family engagement (gained from an extensive review of professional literature):

- Programs invite families to participate in decision-making and goal-setting for their children
- Teachers and programs engage families in two-way communication, using multiple forms and reflecting each family's language choices
- Programs and teachers engage families in ways that are truly reciprocal, benefitting from shared resources and information, including families' unique knowledge of their children
- Programs provide learning activities for the home and in the community
- Programs invite families to participate in program-level decisions and wider advocacy efforts
- Programs implement and institutionalize a comprehensive program-level system of family engagement

NAEYC used these principles to identify programs that effectively engage the families they serve. Early childhood education programs were invited to submit themselves for evaluation. Twenty-four schools submitted applications and seventeen were selected to participate in phone interviews and fifteen of those then received site visits. Each site visit included a tour of the facility, review of program documents, interviews with program staff, and informal meetings with families.

The fifteen schools represent a wide range of program and funding types serving a wide demographic range. After further review, ten of the schools were identified as exemplary in their family engagement practices. They are located in Pennsylvania (2), Connecticut, Iowa, California, Washington, D.C., Georgia, Massachusetts (2), and Minnesota. The other five—in California (2), New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Florida—were judged as noteworthy for their family engagement achievements.

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). "Principles of Effective Family Engagement." The National Association for the Education of Young Children's Engaging Diverse Families Project.

Retrieved from <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/topics/family-engagement/principles>.



Thanks to generous support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, *Our Neighborhood*, is a compilation of stories and research from the family engagement field. It is intended to be a living repository and guide for STEM Learning Ecosystems and other communities interested in cultivating strong community partnerships to prepare the next generation.

This annotated bibliography was compiled by TIES for *Our Neighborhood*.