

## Principles of Family Engagement and Promoting the Parent-Child Relationship: Checklist and Rating Scale

Through the following list of principles, you have the opportunity to assess how intentional your programming is in the promotion of family engagement and promotion of the parent-child relationship. Reviewing the principles and considering your focus on embodying each in work with families is not an assessment of good or bad practice; in fact, the place you rate your program may be very appropriate to your mission and current services to families. Taking a moment to reflect on the principles related to your services may provide additional insight in to your programming.

**Instructions:** Review the list of fourteen principles, check yes or no for whether these are currently a focus of your program/services to children and families. Next rate how intentionally you focus on integrating the principle in to your work with parents and children.

*Modification:* Add lines under each principle to allow staff to write in evidence of activities that support a given principle in action.

Principle	Focus?		Rate how intentionally your programming focuses on or embodies each principle.		
	Yes	No			
1. <b>Focus on strengths and potential.</b> Align with strengths of the parent, the parent-child interactions and relationship, and the family.			Unintentional	Somewhat Intentional	Intentional
2. <b>Provide families with encouragement and education.</b> Engage with families as a tool to promote learning and growth for the parent and the child.			Unintentional	Somewhat Intentional	Intentional
3. <b>Provide a safe and welcoming environment</b> for the family to learn and grow.			Unintentional	Somewhat Intentional	Intentional
4. <b>Focus on building the parent's capacity.</b> Consider the primacy of parent in child's life is critical and parent as first teacher, work to increase confidence in their role as a parent.			Unintentional	Somewhat Intentional	Intentional
5. <b>Acknowledge the perspective of the parent/family.</b> Consider their expectations of engaging in this program/service, correct or incorrect, and the family's perspective of their role in the program/site.			Unintentional	Somewhat Intentional	Intentional
6. <b>Establish a trusting relationship with families.</b> Create and build mutually respectful, caring, trusting relationships with parents and families, seeing the family with worth and dignity.			Unintentional	Somewhat Intentional	Intentional

Principle	Focus?		Rate how intentionally your programming focuses on or embodies each principle.		
	Yes	No			
7. <b>Be active and intentional in working toward reducing disparities experienced by families.</b> Focus on disparities in power and privilege that undermine respectful, trusting, caring relationships with parents/families.			Unintentional	Somewhat Intentional	Intentional
8. <b>Allow the parent to lead</b> and guide you to becoming part of their family and life.			Unintentional	Somewhat Intentional	Intentional
9. <b>Embrace differences across parents and families and be culturally sensitive and attuned.</b> Develop an understanding of the family's past experiences, history, current situation, culture, racial, ethnic, linguistic, and religious/spiritual background, beliefs and values of families and how these may differ from your own history, beliefs and values.			Unintentional	Somewhat Intentional	Intentional
10. <b>Engage in a two way partnership with families.</b> Build a partnership, relationship, with parent offering a model for creating a nurturing relationship with, and environment for, their children.			Unintentional	Somewhat Intentional	Intentional
11. <b>Participate in conversations with the family.</b> Show effort to understand the family, not related to approval or disapproval and use empathy in responses. Ask to learn from family, make no assumptions about the family.			Unintentional	Somewhat Intentional	Intentional
12. <b>Be consistent in actions and words.</b> Ensure consistency across verbal messages, nonverbal behaviors and feelings. Be reliable and honest with families, clear on roles and transparent with information.			Unintentional	Somewhat Intentional	Intentional
13. <b>Acknowledge and address barriers to engaging.</b> Consider barriers to trust building and barriers to engaging with the programs/services and acknowledge the specific challenges to different types of engagement.			Unintentional	Somewhat Intentional	Intentional
14. <b>Share planning and decision making with families.</b> Validate the participatory role of the family in planning and making decision for their child, for the program, for the community and in wider advocacy efforts.			Unintentional	Somewhat Intentional	Intentional