Supporting Parent and Caregiver Involvement in Early Literacy Practices with Young Children from Diverse Backgrounds and Abilities

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Today we will discuss...

- Sharing early literacy strategies with families
- Building upon the activities and customs of families
- Supporting the families of young English Learners
- Providing early literacy resources to families
What is emergent literacy?

Emergent literacy refers to the reading and writing behaviors that develop before conventional literacy (Sulzby, 1989)

- Emergent literacy includes:
  - Looking at picture books
  - Recalling a story out loud
  - Scribbling on a chalkboard and reading it out loud
  - Recognizing logos
  - Singing songs
Background

• All young children acquire early literacy skills with varying degrees of readiness

• Parent and caregiver involvement are important in supporting young children’s early literacy development
Background

- Literacy supports should be provided to young children and families regardless of level of ability

- Opportunity and access are also critically important for children from culturally and linguistically diverse groups
Promoting Early Literacy Strategies with Families

- Share specific strategies
- Model book reading
- Help families identify early literacy goals
- Provide ongoing opportunities for feedback and support
- Share ideas about oral language activities
Supporting the Activities and Customs of Families

• Ask about the daily activities and customs of young children and families in the classroom

• Build upon the knowledge and experiences of families when suggesting early literacy activities for home use

• Provide early literacy supports to parents and caregivers that link home and school experiences
Offering Supports to Families of English Learners

• Actively include the parents and caregivers of young English learners in all aspects of the classroom and other early learning settings

• Encourage families of young English learners to use their home language

• Learn about first and second language acquisition and share this information with parents and caregivers
Providing Early Literacy Resources to Families

- Create a lending library with materials that reflect multicultural and linguistic diversity, and varying abilities.

- Provide information to parents about the public library system and how to get a library card.

- Link to information about other community-based resources including adult literacy and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs.
More Information

• See the materials that accompany this presentation for further tips, ideas, and checklists that can help guide your practice.
More Information

• Also see the resource list for links to excellent websites
Celebrate the wonder of learning to read with your children and families!