

POLL FAMILY SUPPORTS



Parents and families are the best and most valuable sources of information about their children’s development and their experiences outside of the learning environment. Dual and multilingual families bring cultural and linguistic richness to our learning settings and partner with us to support their children’s language growth and development. Family engagement starts with personal face-to-face conversations with families early on. These first interactions are critically important to both learning about the child’s early language learning environment and establishing a bond with families based on mutual trust and respect.

POLL STRATEGY:

Family supports create a foundation of knowledge, partnership, and trust between families and providers so together, they enrich language learning experiences for young multilingual learners.

FAMILY SUPPORTS PROMOTE...

- Parent, family, and provider conversations and knowledge sharing
- Opportunities to value and learn about home languages and cultures
- Regular and ongoing communication and partnership

CONSIDERATIONS AS YOU DESIGN FAMILY SUPPORTS FOR YOUR MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

Meet

- Welcome families in their home language, schedule time to talk about their child, and begin to establish communication preferences and ongoing partnership.
- Share the importance of bilingualism with families in ongoing conversations allowing families to address their concerns or questions on how to support their children.
- Communicate interest in family's lived experiences to demonstrate respect for their language and culture. This will set the stage for future ongoing partnership and collaboration.

Plan

- Use the Family Languages and Interests Interview form to guide family interactions and learn about the child's language, interests, and preferences.
- Plan language learning experiences that will draw on the family's special talents and interests learned from your conversations and interview.
- Discuss opportunities to volunteer and/or participate.

Share

- Keep families engaged. Share observations of their child's strengths, experiences, and interests and discuss ways to promote and extend children's learning at home and in your setting.
- Invite families to special events such as holiday celebrations, performances, community field trips, and parent workshops.

RESOURCES:

To learn more about Family Supports, see the Family Supports section at <https://www.pollstrategies.org>