

ITC Family and Community Relationships Assessment (Level 2) Family and Practitioner Interview

ITC Competencies	ITC FCR1: Describes the inter-relationship between children, family, practitioners, and community contexts, their influence on families' approaches to parenting children birth to age three, and the impact on family-practitioner collaboration. ITC FCR2: Demonstrates behavior that reflects confidentiality and awareness of the unique role of providing services to infants/toddlers and their families. ITC FCR3: Engages in interactions and demonstrates practice with children, families, and practitioners reflective of a strengths-based, family-centered, relationship-based approach.
NAEYC	1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 6b
IPTS	9C, 9D, 9E, 9G, 9H
Original ITC Gateways Benchmarks	2-4F1-2, 2-4F6-8, 2-4G11, 2-4G12, 5F1-2, 5F6-8

Assessment Guidelines

In this assessment, you will interview a family member of an infant or toddler and an early childhood practitioner who works with young children, ages birth to 3. The goal of these interviews is to gather information that will be useful in development a Family Engagement Plan. This Assessment is designed to provide you with opportunities to demonstrate competencies in outlining how children, family, practitioners, and community contexts interrelate to impact approaches to parenting and family-practitioner collaboration; utilizing a strengths-based, family-centered, relationship-based approach, and maintaining confidentiality; and collaborating with families to nurture healthy infant toddler development and learning.

Part 1: Family Interview:

Interview Preparation

- Select a family with a child between the ages of birth and three. This family can be a friend, relative (outside of your immediate family), neighbor, or a family in your early childhood classroom environment.
- Review the family interview questions below.
- Arrange a time to interview the family. Your interview is likely to last approximately 30 minutes.

During the Interview:

- Be sure to let the family know that you are completing this interview as a course assignment, and that the purpose of the assignment is to support your mastery of content.
- Let the questions below guide your interview but allow parents to share anything about their family and culture that they feel is pertinent, even if it is not specifically mentioned in the interview questions.

Post Interview Reflection:

Using the interview questions as a guide, describe the family and summarize your interview.

- What do you see as the family's strengths?
- What did you learn about the family's culture?
- What did you learn about the family in terms of language and communication preferences?
- What did you learn about the family's goals, hopes and dream for their child?
- How could the information you gained in this interview support your ability to facilitate the development and learning of this family's child?

Part 2: Practitioner Interview (early childhood teacher or director)

Interview Preparation

- Schedule an interview with a teacher, family support person, or director from a Head Start or early childhood program in your area. Plan for your interview to take 30 to 45 minutes.
- Familiarize yourself with the suggested interview questions (see attached)

Interview

The focus of your interview is on identifying family engagement policies and practices within the early childhood program.

- What communication and collaboration strategies do you use to engage families within your early childhood program? In what ways are these strategies responsive to communication style, home language, and family communication preferences?
- What areas of your program do you encourage family engagement and collaboration in?
 - Classroom activities
 - Assessment
 - Curricular planning
 - Policy making
- What specific procedures do you have in your program that helps you gain information from families about their children? What information do you gather? How do you use this information within your program?
- What strategies do you use to engage families as team members?
- What do you feel are the biggest barriers to family engagement? How do you work to overcome these barriers?

Post Interview Reflection

- Summarize the answers to the above interview questions
- Evaluate the program's strengths in terms of the following:
 - Communication and collaboration strategies employed

- Family engagement strategies
- Cultural and linguistic responsiveness of family engagement and communication and collaboration strategies
- Practices used to gain information about children via families, and how this information is used within the program

Based on your evaluation, what do you see as program opportunities for growth in each of the following areas:

- Family engagement strategies
- Cultural and linguistic responsiveness of family engagement and communication and collaboration strategies
- Practices used to gain information about children via families, and how this information is used within the program

Consider the family you interviewed in Part One of your assessment. What do you feel would be responsive strategies the program could adapt to support this family's engagement? What strategies would be most effective and culturally responsive in supporting family strengths, expectations, values, and childrearing practices? Please be sure to outline communication and collaboration strategies as well as strategies supporting engagement in the classroom and program.

Part 3: Reflection

After reflecting on the above, describe the following:

- A statement of how families and communities impact infant/toddler development and learning, and the role of the early childhood professional in facilitating this impact.
- Culturally and linguistically responsive practices that are supportive of family development and promote culturally sensitive expectations for children's development and learning.
- Specific strategies you will implement to encourage family engagement in classroom and program activities and problem-solving at the classroom and center/school levels.

Family Interview Questions:

1. Please describe your family structure.
2. What do you feel are the major influences on your parenting? How do factors such as your culture and the language you speak impact your parenting?
3. What factors/resources in your community do you use as a resource relative to your parenting role? Do you feel that these are supportive? Are there additional resources you feel would be beneficial?
4. What relationship do you have with your child's infant toddler teacher? Do you feel that you both have similar values and beliefs regarding interacting with young children? How does this relationship influence your parenting?
5. What are your hopes and for your child? What do you see as the role of your child's early childhood program in fitting within those hopes and dreams?
6. What suggestions do you have or what additional opportunities would you like to be connected to your child's classroom?
7. What are your preferred ways to be communicated with from your child's teacher/school? Face to face? Website? Newsletter? Email? Text?

Practitioner Interview Questions:

1. What communication and collaboration strategies do you use to engage families within your early childhood program?
2. How do you work to ensure these family engagement strategies are culturally and linguistically responsive?
3. What areas of your program do you encourage family engagement in?
 - Classroom activities
 - Assessment
 - Curricular planning
 - Policy making
4. What specific procedures do you have in your program that helps you gain information from families about their children? What information do you gather? How do you use this information within your program?
5. What do you feel are the biggest barriers to family engagement? How do you work to overcome these barriers?

Assessment Rubric (pulled from ITC Master Rubrics)

ITC Family and Community Relationships Assessment (Level 2): Family and Practitioner Interview Rubric					
Competency	Distinguished	Meets	Approaching	Unacceptable	Unable to Assess
<p>FCRI: Describes the inter-relationship between children, family, practitioners, and community contexts, their influence on families' approaches to parenting children birth to age three, and the impact on family-practitioner collaboration.</p> <p>NAEYC: 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b IPTS: 9C, 9H ITC: 2-4F1, 2-4F8, 5F1, 5F8</p>	<p>Provides examples demonstrating understanding of how family structures, diversity in social, cultural, linguistic, or religious background influence families' approaches to parenting children birth-3, and to practitioners' approaches to collaboration.</p> <p>Describes how community characteristics, family structures, and diversity in social, cultural, linguistic, or religious background influence families' and practitioner's perspectives and interactions with children birth-3, each other, and the community.</p> <p>Explains how relationships among practitioners, infants/toddlers, and families can impact other child-family, child-practitioner, and practitioner-family relationships.</p> <p>Uses research and evidence-base to support explanation.</p>	<p>Provides examples demonstrating understanding of how family structures, diversity in social, cultural, linguistic, or religious background influence families' approaches to parenting children birth-3, and to practitioners' approaches to collaboration.</p> <p>Describes how community characteristics, family structures, and diversity in social, cultural, linguistic, or religious background influence families' and practitioner's perspectives and interactions with children birth-3, each other, and the community.</p> <p>Explains how relationships among practitioners, infants/toddlers, and families can impact other child-family, child-practitioner, and practitioner-family relationships.</p>	<p>Provides limited examples demonstrating understanding of how family structures, diversity in social, cultural, linguistic, or religious background influence families' approaches to parenting children birth-3, and to practitioners' approaches to collaboration.</p> <p>Describes, in part, how community characteristics, family structures, and diversity in social, cultural, linguistic, or religious background influence families' and practitioner's perspectives and interactions with children birth-3, each other, and the community.</p> <p>Provides surface explanation of how relationships among practitioners, infants/toddlers, and families can impact other child-family, child-practitioner, and practitioner-family relationships.</p>	<p>Provides examples demonstrating a lack of understanding of how family structures, diversity in social, cultural, linguistic, or religious background influence families' approaches to parenting children birth-3, and to practitioners' approaches to collaboration.</p> <p>Inaccurately describes how community characteristics, family structures, and diversity in social, cultural, linguistic, or religious background influence families' and practitioner's perspectives and interactions with children birth-3, each other, and the community.</p> <p>Provides an inaccurate explanation of how relationships among practitioners, infants/toddlers, and families can impact other child-family, child-practitioner, and practitioner-family relationships.</p>	
<p>FCR2: Demonstrates behavior that reflects confidentiality and awareness of the unique role of providing services to infants/toddlers and their families.</p> <p>NAEYC: 6d</p>	<p>Provides examples of unique confidentiality issues and responsibilities that may arise in providing services to infants/toddlers and their families.</p> <p>Engages in behavior reflective of</p>	<p>Provides examples of unique confidentiality issues and responsibilities that may arise in providing services to infants/toddlers and their families.</p> <p>Engages in behavior reflective of</p>	<p>Provides limited examples of unique confidentiality issues and responsibilities that may arise in providing services to infants/toddlers and their families.</p> <p>Engages in behavior reflective of</p>	<p>Does not maintain confidentiality.</p> <p>Behavior not reflective of understanding the unique role of providing services to infants/toddlers and their families.</p>	

<p>IPTS: N/A ITC: 2-4G11, 2-4G12</p>	<p>confidentiality.</p> <p>Engages in behaviors reflective of understanding the unique role of providing services to infants/toddlers and their families.</p> <p>Identifies strategies that would support colleagues in developing and engaging in confidential behaviors and behaviors that demonstrate awareness of the unique role of providing services to infants/toddlers and their families.</p>	<p>confidentiality.</p> <p>Engages in behaviors reflective of understanding the unique role of providing services to infants/toddlers and their families.</p>	<p>confidentiality on a fairly consistent basis.</p> <p>Generally, engages in behaviors reflective of understanding the unique role of providing services to infants/toddlers and their families.</p>		
<p>FCR3: Engages in interactions and demonstrates practice with children, families, and practitioners reflective of a strengths-based, family-centered, relationship-based approach.</p> <p>NAEYC: 1b, 2a, 2b IPTS: 9C, 9D, 9G ITC: 2-4F2, 2-4F6, 2-4F7, 5F2, 5F6, 5F7</p>	<p>Engages in strengths-based, family-centered, relationship-based interactions with children, families, and other practitioners.</p> <p>Demonstrates strengths-based, family-centered, relationship-based practice within settings serving infants and toddlers.</p> <p>Recognizes the strengths and benefits, and supports any potential challenges of families of infants and toddlers who are learning English as a second language and/or multiple languages and families with infants and toddlers with developmental delays, disabilities, and/or other special needs, (e.g., stressful circumstances, illness).</p> <p>Uses research and evidence-base to support and advocate for a strengths-based, family-centered, relationship-based approach.</p>	<p>Engages in strengths-based, family-centered, relationship-based interactions with children, families, and other practitioners.</p> <p>Recognizes the strengths and benefits, and supports any potential challenges of families of infants and toddlers who are learning English as a second language and/or multiple languages and families with infants and toddlers with developmental delays, disabilities, and/or other special needs, (e.g., stressful circumstances, illness).</p>	<p>Engages in positive interactions with children, families, and other practitioners.</p> <p>Demonstrates supportive practices within settings serving infants and toddlers.</p> <p>Recognizes the strengths of families of infants and toddlers who are learning English as a second language and/or multiple languages and families with infants and toddlers with developmental delays, disabilities, and/or other special needs, (e.g., stressful circumstances, illness).</p>	<p>Engages in interactions with children, families, and other practitioners that are not reflective of a strength-based lens.</p> <p>Demonstrates practices that are not supportive of children, families, and colleagues within settings serving infants and toddlers.</p> <p>Does not recognize the strengths of families of infants and toddlers who are learning English as a second language and/or multiple languages and families with infants and toddlers with developmental delays, disabilities, and/or other special needs, (e.g., stressful circumstances, illness).</p>	

Yellow= Level 2