

Transylvania County NC Pre-K Family Engagement Policy

FY 2020-2021

Policy Goal:

The goal of this policy is to provide a procedure for the coordination and implementation of family engagement for parents, guardians, and primary caregivers of children.

Responsibility

Designated staff are responsible for engaging parents, guardians, and primary caregivers in activities and experiences.

Parent, Family and Community Engagement

Encouragement of parent participation and engagement in activities and experiences of children expand parental strengths and interests, and help families and children be ready for school.

The goal is to empower parents, guardians and primary caregivers with information, tools and experiences that may:

- a) Provide increased financial security, safer and healthier lives.
- b) Promote the development of warm relationships that nurture their child's learning and development and help families and children be ready for school.
- c) Nurture and encourage participation in everyday learning of their children at home, school and communities.
- d) Expand parental strengths and interests.
- e) Support and promote advocacy for their child's learning and development as they transition to new learning environments.
- f) Connect parents, guardians and primary caregivers with peers and mentors in formal or informal social networks that are supportive and/or educational.
- g) Facilitate participation of parents in leadership development, decision making, and program policy development to improve children's development and learning experiences.

Approved caregivers will be welcomed as visitors and will be encouraged to observe the children and participate with the children in group activities.

The participation of parents, guardians, and primary caregivers in program activities and experiences is encouraged but is not required as a condition of the child's enrollment. Additionally, a variety of opportunities are made available for the interaction with parents and children throughout the year including, but not limited to: enrollment intake interview, parent orientation, parent committee meetings, parent training sessions, advisory committee meetings, kindergarten transition activities, disability placement and transition meetings, field trips, social activities, volunteering in the center and group socialization activities, etc...

Parent Meetings

Parent meetings are held on a regular basis throughout the program year. At the time of enrollment, parents are asked to complete a parent training survey listing possible training topics according to component areas. The results of these surveys are compiled according to each parent meeting and training is planned accordingly. Parents are also asked at parent meetings to share ideas for training topics.

Parenting Skills

Parents are provided a variety of opportunities to enhance their parenting skills, knowledge, and understanding of the educational and developmental needs and activities of their children. These opportunities may include:

- Handouts, pamphlets, brochures, newsletters;
- Parent-teacher conferences;
- Training topics at parent meetings and parent meetings minutes;
- Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and Individuals Education Program (IEP) meetings;
- Kindergarten transition meetings.

Family Healthy Living

Opportunities for healthy living may be provided or family events that:

- a) Increase family access to materials, services and activities essential to promote a healthy living. Information may be provided regarding available community resources.
- b) Special healthy living family events: The focus of such events will be to provide opportunities for families and their children to experience what it means to be healthier, different options that can adjust to the culture and values of each family while making changes towards a healthier lifestyle.