

NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct & Statement of Commitment

Section II: Ethical responsibilities to families

Families* are of primary importance in children's development. Because the family and the early childhood practitioner have a common interest in the child's well-being, we acknowledge a primary responsibility to bring about communication, cooperation and collaboration between the home and early childhood program in ways that enhance the child's development. (**The term family may include those adults, besides parents, with the responsibility of being involved in educating, nurturing and advocating for the child.*)

Ideals

- I-2.1---To be familiar with the knowledge base related to working effectively with families and to stay informed through continuing education and training
- I-2.2---To develop relationships of mutual trust and create partnerships with the families we serve.
- I-2.3---To welcome all family members and encourage them to participate in the program, including involvement in shared decision making.
- I-2.4---To listen to families, acknowledge and build upon their strengths and competencies, and learn from families as we support them in their task of nurturing children.
- I-2.5---To respect the dignity and preferences of each family and to make an effort to learn about its structure, culture, language, customs and beliefs to ensure a culturally consistent environment for all children and families.
- I-2.6---To acknowledge families' childrearing values and their right to make decisions for their children.
- I-2.7---To share information about each child's education and development with families and to help them understand and appreciate the current knowledge base of the early childhood profession.
- I-2.8---To help family members enhance their understanding of their children, as staff are enhancing their understanding of each child through communications with families, and support family members in the continuing development of their skills as parents.
- I-2.9---To foster families' efforts to build support networks and, when needed, participate in building networks for families by providing them with opportunities to interact with program staff, other families, community resources, and professional services.