
Handout 19: Planning Home Visits Together

Instructions: Select one of the families shown on the Head Start video *Our Stories Keep Us Connected*. Put yourself in the role of a staff person who will be making a home visit with this family to plan future home visits or other Head Start services. As you observe the family in action, pay particular attention to how learning occurs within everyday family activities.

For example...

...listen to:

- what parents say about their children's learning or how children learn.
- what they say about a parent's role as a teacher.
- what parents say about their own learning or their own childhood.
- the conversations between parents and children.

...observe how:

- parents use everyday objects as tools for learning.
- parents use different techniques (e.g., direct instruction, modeling, demonstration) in different situations.
- children are learning skills, knowledge, attitudes, and feelings in different learning situations.

After viewing the video, discuss the following questions:

1. What do you think are the parents' goals and expectations for their children's learning?
2. What is the family already doing to foster learning?
3. What needs have parents identified for themselves?
4. What activities, resources, or experiences would extend the learning that is already occurring in the home?
5. How would you involve the parents in planning a home visit?
6. What factors do you need to consider when planning home visits (for example, younger siblings, work schedule of parents, etc.)?