FAMILIES AND BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS: IDEAS FOR PARTNERING

The families of the children in your program have expectations for their child's behavior at home, just as you have behavioral expectations for your classroom.

How can you and children's families work together to support behavior that will bring their children success at school?

Ask questions

When you talk with families, you can start by asking them about their goals for their child in Head Start. Families may have diverse ideas and priorities. Some may want their child to be able to sit still, to learn to read, and do math. Others may want their child to make friends and get along with others.

What you learn will help you create a fuller picture of each child's life. It will help you understand the culture and expectations of the family and the best ways to support each child in learning.

Share

Share with families some of the developmentally appropriate behaviors—like practicing sitting still for short periods and taking turns—that will help their child achieve school success. Let them know that you are teaching core social expectations, like "be respectful," and describe the behaviors and skills that you are using to teach those. Be prepared with ideas or resources for families if they ask how they can work on these behaviors at home too.

FAMILIES AND BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS:
WORKSHEET FOR PARTNERING

Use this space to write down your thoughts about the behavioral expectations you have for the children in your classroom. Brainstorm how you can talk with families about their expectations and your expectations for behavior.

What core values do I model and teach? _____

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What are the key associated behaviors and skills I expect in the classroom? _____

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What words can I use to talk with families about these values, behaviors, and skills? _____

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What can I suggest for families who want to practice these behaviors at home? _____

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How will I respond when families have different expectations for their child's behavior at school? For example, what will I say when a family thinks a 3-year-old should be fed by an adult or a 5-year-old should not do pretend play at school? _____

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For more information, contact us at: **NCQTL@UW.EDU** or **877-731-0764.**

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