

Reflecting on Families' Roles in Your Program

Take a little time to reflect on families' roles in your program. Do you think your program is where it should be in terms of family-centered practice? Answer the questions that follow and reflect on what they mean for your program. Share your thoughts with a program director to begin thinking about how to improve experiences for families.

1. Are you satisfied with the role families play in your program in general? Why or why not?

2. What is one area in which you think your program could improve beliefs or actions related to family-centered practice? Think about:
 - a. Do you reach *all* families?

 - b. Are families *equal partners* in your program?

 - c. Do families feel connected to the program? Do they consider it a resource and an asset for the community?

3. How does your program engage families? What strategies do you use?

4. Where could you go to get new ideas?

5. Describe the struggles you see staff members having with families. How do you support staff *and* families?

6. What tensions do you feel in your role? Whom can you talk to about these tensions? Do you feel supported in your role?