



FUN WITH FAMILIES

Are you looking for new ways to build community with families? Consider these ideas as part of your program's plan to engage families. Invite families to suggest ideas too. Let families lead plans—and share talents—for a fun year.

Gather:

- Start a community garden at school.
- Have a coffee hour or art walk with children's art.
- Suggest a picnic and play time for families at a nearby park.
- How about a visit to the library, zoo, or local swimming pool?
- Bring everyone together to create art—with family projects or a group effort to decorate an area of the school.
- Run a field day with athletic events.
- Help organize a "Daddy and Me" soccer game.

Celebrate:

- Start a phrase book with common sayings from the children's home languages.
- Ask a family (or two) to play a starring role each month in class.
- Invite families to an evening to make books that tell their family stories.

Share:

- Suggest a community fair with firefighters, library staff, and social service agencies.
- Start a family or father discussion group.
- Bring in guest speakers on topics of interest.
- Start a lending library.
- Provide computer access for parents.
- Help plan a "parent night out" where staff and volunteers take care of the children.
- Try a clothing, book, or toy swap.
- Begin a family mentor program, where families reach out to other families.



REFLECT ON WAYS TO BUILD COMMUNITY

Use this page to think about and write your thoughts about different ways to build a caring community with families and other Head Start staff.

<p>How can we gather families' ideas about the ways they would like to participate in the Head Start community this year? How can we invite them to play a role in leading these efforts?</p>	
<p>How can we find out how families want to interact with one another? What has been successful in the past to bring families together in meaningful ways? Are there ways we can help families connect?</p>	
<p>How can we find out ways that families would like to offer support to one another? Are there areas where families would like help from other families or Head Start staff?</p>	
<p>How has this community gathered and celebrated in the past? What are the ways we want to do that this year?</p>	

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