Activities with Families: Creating a Caring Community



THE NATIONAL CENTER ON Parent, Family and Community Engagement

### ACTIVITIES WITH FAMILIES CREATING A CARING COMMUNITY

## LET CHILDREN'S PHOTOS TELL A STORY

This goal of this activity is to partner with families and encourage children to share their lives outside of school. Send home a simple camera with a different child each week!

#### Step 1:

Invite families to help their child take pictures. The theme is "At home, this is important to me."

#### Step 2:

After the photos are taken and printed, ask families and children to share about them. Talk with the children about their favorite photos and write down what they say. Families might want to write about favorite photos in their home language or in English.

#### Step 3:

A selection of photos and stories could be displayed at school. This art exhibit would be a reflection of the children and families in the school.

#### What are the possible benefits?

- · Children and families share about what matters to them.
- Children practice communicating when they talk about the photos.
- Teachers learn about the children, their families, and their cultures.
- · Families learn about each other.

This project is adapted from one led by Penn State Harrisburg in 2009 to support a preschool with a growing number of families from different cultures.



# Activities with Families: Creating a Caring Community **PLAN THE PHOTO PROJECT**

Use this page to write down ideas for your children's photography project.

How will you invite families and children to participate in the project?	
Where will you get a camera to send home? Will the children use disposable cameras or share one?	
How long will each family have the camera?	
How will you teach the children to use the camera?	
How will the pictures be printed?	
Will the children choose three to five favorites?	
When will you talk with the children about the photos? How will you gather any family comments about the photos?	
Will you display the photos? If so, how?	

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

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