



Questions to Help You Develop Strong Relationships with Families

The following questions can help you build relationships with children and families and learn about families' different cultures. Asking these questions as soon as the child enrolls in your program can help you to practice culturally sensitive care. You can let parents know that sharing this information will help you to provide more responsive and sensitive care to their child. To show respect for each family's level of comfort with responding to these questions, you can ask them if they would like to complete a questionnaire or schedule a time to meet with you in person.

1. What are your hopes and dreams for your child? What do you want life to be like for her or him?
2. Can you tell me one special thing about your child?
3. What do you and your child enjoy doing together at home?
4. When your child is upset, what things do you do to comfort her or him?
5. Tell me about the routines you and your child have throughout the day (for example, bedtime, mealtime, waking up in the morning, and so on) and some things that you may say and do during these times?
6. Does your child have a special object that gives her or him comfort, such as a blanket, stuffed animal, or favorite photo?
7. Are there languages other than English that you use at home? Can you teach me some words or phrases in those languages that I can use with your child during child care?
8. Do you have any concerns about your child's experiences while in my care?
9. How do you prefer to communicate for updates about your child (for example, phone calls, emails, or in-person check-ins at pick-up and drop-off times)? Is a certain time of day better than others to communicate?



10. Is there anything else you would like me to know about your child?

The State Capacity Building Center (SCBC) works with state and territory leaders and their partners to create innovative early childhood systems and programs that improve results for children and families. The SCBC is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care.

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