Principles of Family Support Practice Guidance

Purpose
This document describes the elements of Family Support work in Early Learning.

Guidance
Family support programs work toward strengthening families to support the well-being and healthy development of all family members and their future generations. The following principles guide the work of all Early Learning staff and programs:

- Site teams and families work together in relationships based on equality and respect.
- Teams enhance the families’ capacity to support the growth and development of all family members - adults, youth and children.
- Families are resources to their own members, to other families, to programs and to communities.
- Programs affirm and strengthen families’ cultural, racial and linguistic identities and enhance their abilities to function in a multicultural society.
- Programs are embedded in their communities and contribute to the community building process.
- Programs advocate with families for services and systems that are fair, responsive and accountable to the families served.
- Practitioners work with families to mobilize formal and informal resources to support family development.
- Programs are flexible and continually responsive to emerging family and community issues.
- Principles of Family Support are modeled in all program activities, including planning, governance and administration.

Related Documents
Family Partnership Philosophy Guidance