



Quality ChildCare

For Registered Home-Based Providers

LEARNING TO GROW ★ WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE Vol. II, No. 7

10 Hallmarks of Quality Child Care

- ★ Build trusting relationships
- ★ Provide consistent care
- ★ Support children's health
- ★ Provide a safe environment
- ★ Provide positive guidance
- ★ Provide a language-rich environment
- ★ Foster curiosity and development through play
- ★ Individualize care and learning activities
- ★ **Partner with parents**
- ★ Pursue personal and professional growth

This Month's Hallmark of Quality Child Care Partner with Parents

Partnering with Parents

Education policy makers and other stakeholders are raising expectations that young children be school ready, and that all students be prepared for careers, college and lifelong learning. Meeting such expectations is a collective effort. It involves a shared responsibility in which family child care programs, preschools, and community organizations are committed to engaging families in meaningful ways, and where families are committed to actively supporting their children's learning and development. Research shows that families play a significant role in supporting their children's early learning, not only in the home, but also by guiding their children successfully through a complex school system, as well as advocating on behalf of their children for effective and high quality early learning experiences. To that end, Hawaii's Family Partnership guidelines identified six principles that underlie family partnership goals for child care professionals:

1. Welcoming all families
2. Communicating effectively
3. Supporting success
4. Speaking up for every child
5. Sharing decision making
6. Partnering with community

The complete version of the Family Partnership guidelines can be found on the internet (see citations for website information). This newsletter will highlight two principles, Principle 5: "Sharing decision making" and Principle 6: "Partnering with community."

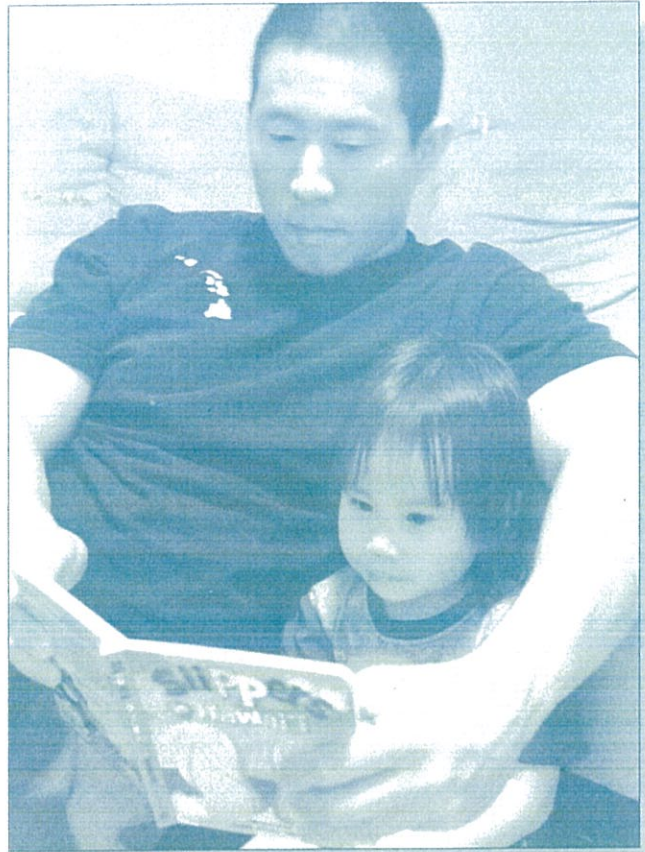
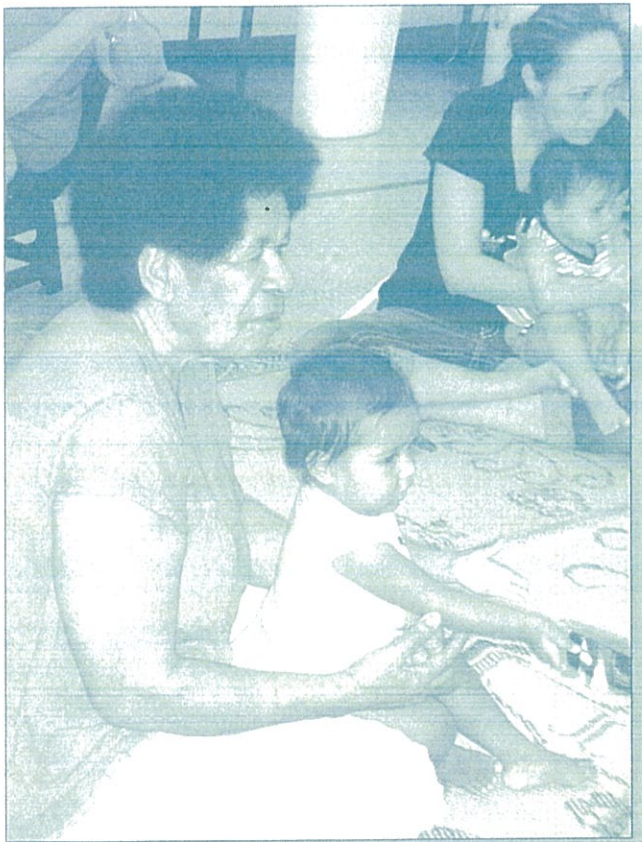


Principle #5: Sharing Decision Making

Families and staff are partners in decisions that affect the children and families. Together, they inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs that benefit children and result in improved child health and learning outcomes.

Families are the most important influence in their child's life, and they have a deep knowledge of their child and a commitment to their well-being. As a provider, you have the professional expertise in working in a child care setting to nurture and educate children. By maximizing cooperation between yourself and the families, you can expand on how the child is developing at home and families can expand on what the child is learning in your care. When families and providers get to know each other better and work together, children do better in school. The following are some ideas for ways to share decision-making with families:

- Create monthly goals for the child, together with the family, based on his or her specific development and interests.



- Create folders with each child's individual information. Include items such as family consultation forms (see sample included), parent communications, observation or behavior notes, samples of children's work, etc. This will make it easier when communicating with parents about their child's progress.
- Get feedback from families about your policies—whether in person or anonymously through a survey or a suggestion box.
- Host regular family read-and-play sessions. Ask family members to choose the book or activity that will be the focus. Encourage family-child interaction at the session.
- Hold a potluck dinner and include a demonstration of a learning experience that families can share with their children at home.
- Model positive interactions with children. When parents see providers engaged in positive ways with their children, they learn to trust you and are more likely to adopt these strategies at home.

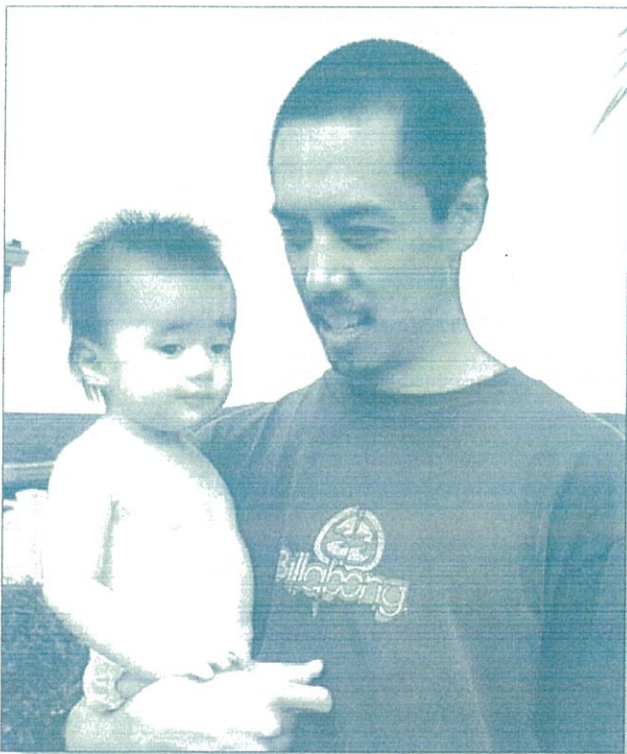
Principle #6: Partnering with Community

Families and staff partner with community members and organizations to increase understanding of, and access to, resources, services, and programs.

“It takes a village to raise a child,” is a popular saying with a clear message—that community members have an essential role to play in the growth and development of young children.

Here are some ideas to help you build partnerships with the community:

- Support families’ access to community resources by creating a community resource corner or a binder of community resource brochures.
- Provide up-to-date resources for your families on specific topics. Leave these resources at the sign in/out table for easy access.
- Create a newsletter or web page with links to community resources for your families to use.
- Participate in community-based training programs that offer professional development.
- Participate in a Registered Family Child Care Provider group that meets regularly. By building a safe place to collaborate with other providers you can share ideas and problem solve together about situations you face.
- Read up-to-date articles from credible websites or books (e.g., American Academy of Pediatrics, Zero to Three)
- Attend conferences for professional development such as the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) or Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC).



Citations:

State of Hawai'i Executive Office on Early Learning. (2013). *Family partnership guidelines for early childhood settings*. (brochure). Honolulu, HI.

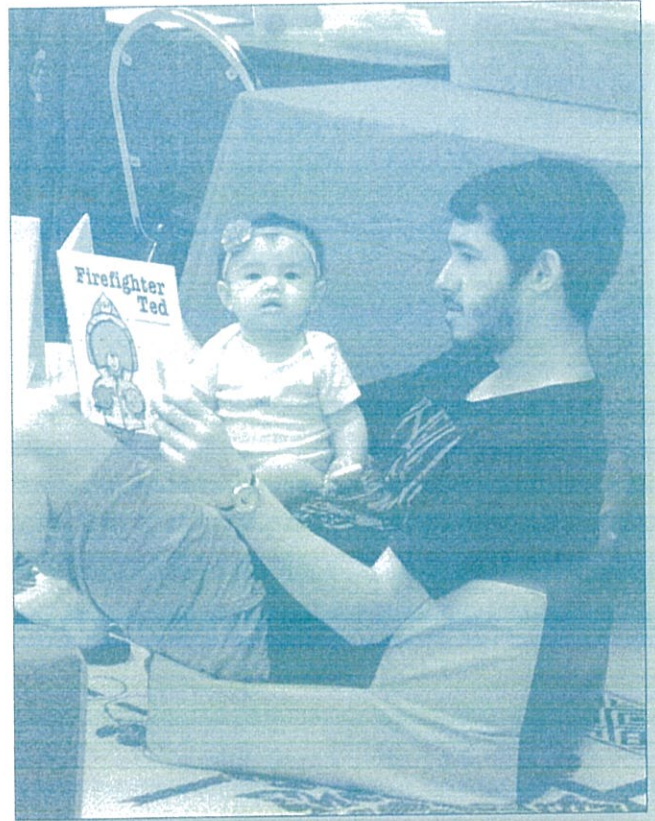
<http://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/standards/hawaii-family-partnership-guidelines-fpg-for-early-childhood-settings/>

Raikes, H. and Edwards, C. P. (2009). Extending the dance in infant and toddler caregiving: Enhancing attachment and relationships. In *Early Childhood News*. Vol. 2, No. 4. December, 2009. Newsletter. New York City Early Childhood Professional Development Institute.

https://www.earlychildhoodnyc.org/pdfs/eng/Early%20Childhood%20News%20_4.pdf

Reflection Sheet and Award Book

- To receive the award book for this month, fill out your caregiver's reflection sheet and return it to the Learning to Grow Program in the postage paid envelope by the deadline posted.
- Indicate on Question #8 if you would like to receive free technical assistance or support related to a child care issue.
- Update your address or contact information if any changes have taken place.



REMINDER: Registered QCC participants can use their participation in the program to fulfill the relicensing requirement of "increased knowledge." Ask your DHS Licensing Social Worker about the requirements today.

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