

November is Family Engagement Month!

Share the November Family Engagement Message

November is Family Engagement Month! Share these messages through social media posts and newsletters to celebrate families and generate support and buzz about meaningful family engagement and leadership. Family involvement in a child's development and education is one of the biggest predictors of health and success.

Below are sample social media posts and sample newsletter language that you can use or adapt. More family engagement information is available at: <https://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/family-engagement-month-2021/>.

Social Media Messages

Message #1

Families are children's first, longest lasting, and most important teachers, advocates, and nurturers. Support families by signing on to the *Family Engagement Proclamation*, proclaiming November 2021 as "Family Engagement Month" in North Carolina at https://padlet.com/ecacmain/family_engagement_month_2021.

Message #2

Spending time together as a family is important, and sometimes we all need new ideas! Check out these activity ideas on these fun November [Family Engagement Calendars](#), in English and Spanish!

Message #3

November is Family Engagement Month! Involving families in their children's development and education leads to lifelong health and success. Check out this family engagement month webpage with activity calendars for families and more. <https://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/family-engagement-month-2021/>

Message #4

North Carolina's early childhood system strives to be family-centered, equity-driven and collaborative. The *Family Engagement and Leadership Framework*, accessible on DCDEE's [FE&L Webpage](#), features Guiding Principles and information for agencies on meaningful family engagement and leadership.

Guiding Principles

What Does Family Engagement and Leadership Look Like?

RESPONSIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Families experience responsive relationships with the people who work with them, in which family story and partnership is valued.

SHARED DECISIONS

Families are equal partners and active participants in goals and decisions about their child's well-being, development and learning.

WELCOMING ENVIRONMENTS

Spaces are created to feel welcoming and safe for families.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is a two-way street, easy to understand, and ongoing.

ADVOCACY

Families are empowered to advocate for themselves and their communities.

PROGRAM PLANNING

Families help with the planning and improvement process of programs.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Partner organizations are held accountable on how well they include families in their self-assessment and planning.

Message #5

Centering family voices is critical to building strong early childhood systems. During Family Engagement Month, learn more about the ways your organization can elevate family leaders with Family Engagement & Leadership Action Guide and Toolkit at <https://www.smartstart.org/family-engagement-and-leadership/>

Sample Newsletter Language

You can share the *November Family Engagement* message through your organization's newsletters, or those that reach parents in your community, professionals in your field, or even general interest newsletters for your community. You can use or adapt the sample newsletter language below to reach others who might help further our cause.

November is Family Engagement Month! Family involvement in a child's development and education is one of the biggest predictors of lifelong health and success. In November, we celebrate parents and relatives who are their child's first teacher and provide nurturing and supportive relationships.

Families work hard every day to support young children in growing and learning. Let's get busy supporting families with these action steps in November:

Family actions:

- Spend time with your family having fun in November – check out the activity ideas on these fun [Family Engagement Calendars](#), in English and Spanish!
- Sign up for the [PBS KIDS Newsletter](#) and text CONNECT to 274448 for *Bright By Text* updates and info.
- Take care of yourself – go for a walk, talk with a friend, do something fun. You deserve it!
- Lend your voice and experience as a family leader in your school and community organizations.

Agency and school actions:

- Sign on to the Family Engagement Proclamation, proclaiming November 2021 as “Family Engagement Month” in North Carolina. Sign here: <https://padlet.com/ecacmain/family-engagement-month-2021>
- Review and improve the family engagement and leadership opportunities you offer: [Center for the Study of Social Policy's Parent Engagement and Leadership Assessment Guide and Tool](#).
- Consider how you can develop family leaders in your organization. Check out the Family Engagement & Leadership Action Guide and Toolkit at <https://www.smartstart.org/family-engagement-and-leadership/>

- Find helpful information and graphics such as “What Does Family Engagement and Leadership Look Like?” and the “Family Leadership Continuum” on DCDEE’s [FE&L Webpage](#).

Policy makers and elected officials:

- Prioritize the needs of young children and their families with policies that ensure good health, strong families and positive early learning experiences, including:
 - Child care
 - Paid Leave
 - Early Head Start
 - Smart Start
 - Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
 - Early Childhood Home Visiting
 - Family Support
 - Economic Security

Social Media Graphics

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Guiding Principles from the “NC Early Childhood Family Engagement and Leadership Framework” accessible here: [Family Engagement and Leadership webpage](#)