



**Family Engagement Plan
for
Moody Early Childhood Center
2024-2025**

Introduction:

Vision for Family Engagement

At Moody Early Childhood Center, we understand that family involvement is essential to children's academic, social, and emotional growth. Our vision is to create an inclusive, collaborative environment where families, educators, and community members work as partners to promote learning. This plan focuses on meaningful engagement by fostering relationships, providing resources, and empowering families to actively participate in their children's education. With this commitment, we aim to cultivate positive family attitudes toward learning and establish lifelong foundations for success.

Six Components of High-Quality Family Engagement and Related Activities

Texas Education Agency (TEA) emphasizes the importance of six key components for High-Quality Family Engagement to promote student success. These elements include fostering partnerships that ensure continuous communication between schools and families, empowering parents to support student learning, and providing accessible resources. By integrating family involvement into school culture and decision-making processes, TEA encourages shared responsibility for educational outcomes. These practices are designed to strengthen relationships, bridge gaps between home and school, and create a collaborative environment that nurtures the holistic development of students.

1. Facilitate Family-to-Family Support

Providing opportunities for families to connect with and support each other strengthens the sense of community and builds a network of peer encouragement.

Activities and Practices:

- MECC will hire Family Advocates who will assist families if goal setting, resource attainment, and other family needs as determined. (October 2024)
- MECC Family Advocates will provide Home Visits as needed. (Ongoing)
- Host family networking events, such as "Family Game Nights" or "Parent Breakfasts." (Monthly)

- Establish mentoring programs that pair new families with experienced ones for support. (Ongoing)
- Create virtual family discussion groups or social media communities for sharing ideas. (Ongoing)

2. Establish a Network of Community Resources

Connecting families with local resources ensures they receive the necessary support to thrive, both academically and socially.

Activities and Practices:

- MECC Family Advocates who will coordinate with local agencies to provide training and resources for families. (Ongoing)
- MECC will partner with local agencies to provide a Home-Based Parenting program. (August 2024)
- Partner with local healthcare providers, libraries, and social services to offer resources on-site. (Ongoing)
- Organize community resource fairs where families can meet service providers. (Fall 2024 and Spring 2025)
- Provide referrals and information to families about mental health, financial assistance, and early intervention programs. (Ongoing)

3. Increase Family Participation in Decision-Making

Families' involvement in school decisions promotes shared responsibility and builds trust between the school and the community.

Activities and Practices:

- Conduct Staff, Parent, and Community Advisory Committees three times a year for assistance in program development, such as policies, events, and activities, as well as program evaluation. (Fall 2024, Spring 2025, and Summer 2025)
- Distribute surveys and conduct focus groups to incorporate family feedback into improvement efforts. (Fall 2024, and Spring 2025)

4. Equip Families with Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning

When families have the resources to support learning at home, children's academic achievement improves.

Activities and Practices:

- Provide take-home activity kits focused on reading, math, and social-emotional skills. (Bi-Monthly)

- Offer family workshops on topics like child development, early literacy, behavior management, health/nutrition, and family finance. (Ongoing)
- Organize events such as "STEM Family Nights" or "Read with Me Days" to promote learning outside of the classroom. (Ongoing)

5. Develop Staff Skills in Evidence-Based Practices that Support Families

Educators and staff need continuous training to effectively engage families and help them meet children's developmental milestones.

Activities and Practices:

- Conduct professional development sessions focused on family engagement strategies. (Fall 2024 and Spring 2025)
- Train staff in culturally responsive practices and communication techniques. (Fall 2024)
- Offer workshops on developmental benchmarks and evidence-based teaching strategies for early learning. (Fall 2024)

6. Evaluate Family Engagement Efforts and Use Evaluations for Continuous Improvement

Regular evaluation helps monitor the effectiveness of family engagement efforts and ensures continuous growth.

Activities and Practices:

- Conduct Staff, Parent, and Community Advisory Committees three times a year for assistance in program development and evaluation. (Fall 2024, Spring 2025, and Summer 2025)
- Use surveys, interviews, and focus groups to assess family satisfaction and engagement levels. (Fall 2024 and Spring 2025)
- Track participation data for family events and volunteer activities. (Ongoing)
- Use evaluation results to update strategies and align future programming with family needs and feedback. (Spring 2025)

Transition Activities

Offering transition activities from early childhood to school is essential for fostering a smooth adjustment for young children. These activities help reduce anxiety by familiarizing children with new environments, routines, and expectations, making the shift less overwhelming. Transition programs also promote stronger connections between families and schools, encouraging collaboration that supports children's emotional and social well-being. Early exposure to classroom settings and social interactions enhances children's readiness, building the confidence and foundational skills needed to thrive in their academic journey. Overall, well-planned transitions

lay the groundwork for long-term success by ensuring children feel secure, prepared, and engaged from the start.

From Childcare to School:

- Organize orientation sessions for families transitioning from childcare to Pre-K. (Spring 2025)
- Develop a "Kinder Readiness" program that introduces children and families to the new learning environment. (Spring 2025)
- Collaborate with local childcare centers to share children's developmental progress for a seamless transition. (Spring 2025)

From Pre-K to Kindergarten:

- Host school tours and kindergarten transition workshops. (Spring 2025)
- Provide summer transition kits with activities to prepare children for kindergarten. (End of School 2025)
- Arrange meetings between Pre-K and kindergarten teachers to ensure smooth data sharing and continuity of learning. (Spring 2025)

Linguistic and Culturally Inclusive Practices

Implementing linguistic and culturally inclusive practices is essential for fostering an environment where all families and students feel valued and supported. Cultural responsiveness ensures that diverse backgrounds are respected and reflected in the curriculum and interactions, promoting equity and belonging. Linguistically competent communication helps break language barriers, ensuring that families understand and engage meaningfully with the school community. Additionally, training staff in these areas equips them to better meet the needs of multicultural students, strengthening relationships between families and educators. These practices not only enhance trust and collaboration but also contribute to improved academic and social outcomes for all students.

Cultural Responsiveness for Educators and Staff:

- Offer ongoing training on culturally inclusive practices to support diverse families.
- Encourage staff to integrate books, activities, and celebrations from different cultures into the curriculum.
- Organize cultural events, such as multicultural nights, to promote awareness and inclusion.

Linguistically Competent Communication:

- Translate all communications, newsletters, and invitations into the families' preferred languages.

- Provide interpreters for conferences, workshops, and meetings.
- Use bilingual staff or volunteers to assist families with forms and other administrative tasks.

Conclusion: Strengthening Family Engagement for Student Success

Family engagement is a cornerstone of Moody Early Childhood Center’s mission. By working together with families, educators, and the community, we ensure that each child receives the support needed to thrive academically and socially. We encourage all families to actively participate in our programs, knowing that their involvement is key to their child's growth. Through continuous collaboration, we are committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive learning environment where every child and family can succeed. Together, we can foster positive family attitudes toward education and create lifelong learners.