

CHLD 201: Child Development Practicum I

Family Event

Learning Outcomes	1. Articulate and demonstrate skills needed to develop supportive, inclusive learning climates, including collaborative, respectful partnerships between children, professionals, family members, and communities that are culturally and linguistically diverse.
DEC Recommended Practices	F6 Practices, supports, and resources provide families with participatory experiences and opportunities promoting choice and decision making. F15 Family and child strengths and assets are used as a basis for engaging families in participatory experiences supporting parenting competence and confidence.
NAEYC Standards	2c. Involving families and communities in their children's development and learning.

Teachers foster positive relationships with the parents directly in their classrooms and collaborate with the other staff members to organize participatory events for the entire family. The agenda of these events vary significantly to attempt to meet the needs and interests of a diverse population. Some events may involve parent education topics directly and some more indirectly. Others may help to link families to community agencies. Regardless of the agenda, all events work to build a stronger relationship between families and program staff and amongst families in the program.

For this assignment you will be attending any one of the center-wide family events sponsored by your Practicum site. If your site is not hosting such an event during your placement, contact your supervising instructor for an alternative assignment.

To prepare for the family event:

- Consult your cooperating teacher early in your placement about the possible choices you have to complete this assignment. You may have to complete this activity out of sequence.
- Check with your cooperating teacher to see if you can be of assistance preparing for the event and what role you should play at the event.

While attending the event:

- Arrive at the prearranged site on time so as not to interrupt their program.
- Be friendly with the families and staff and introduce yourself. Get involved – interact.
- Spend your time visiting and observing the staff and determining what their roles are during family events. Be of assistance wherever needed.
- Be a good observer and try to be unobtrusive. Watch, listen, and learn from the experience.
- Parents may become uncomfortable if they notice you taking notes on what is said, so delay your note taking until after the event.

After the event is over:

- Write your notes immediately while the memories are fresh.
- Submit a reflective report of the experience to your supervising instructor. It should describe the experience and include the following points:
 - Describe the event and the preparation work that needed to be completed.
 - Describe how the event fostered parents' involvement in their child's development and learning.
 - Describe how the evening's events met the above objectives and standards.
 - Responsive to the diversity and complexity of family systems.
 - Bring family members and community agencies together to create and support quality care and education programs.
 - Provide families with participatory experiences.
 - Provide opportunities promoting choice and decision making by families.
 - Engaging families in participatory experiences supporting parenting competence and confidence.
 - Involving families and communities in their children's development and learning.