

## CHLD 209: Child, Family and Community

### Family Night

<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	5. Describe and demonstrate skills that are necessary for professionals within early childhood education to work together as a team, to collaborate, and to advocate in ways that are responsive to the diversity and complexity of family systems. 7. Understand that early childhood programs serve as a catalyst within the larger community context to bring family members and community agencies together to create and support quality care and education programs.
<b>DEC Recommended Practices</b>	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. I 18 Team members focus on the between-sessions time (i.e. build in activities that can be carried out across time and contexts).
<b>NAEYC Standards</b>	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. The goal of family events often includes working to build a stronger relationship between teachers and families and amongst families.

For this assignment you will be attending one of the center-wide family activities at the Child Development Lab, one of our partnership sites, or an appropriate site agreed upon by you and your instructor.

#### To prepare for the family event:

- Read Chapter 10: Parent Education and Family Life Education
- Contact your center of choice and find out their schedule for family events and arrange to attend one of them.
- Print a copy of the “**Field Experience Verification Form**” handout. This form will need to be signed by a staff person at the family event.

#### While attending the event:

- Arrive at the site on time so as not to interrupt their program.
- Be friendly with the families and staff and introduce yourself.
- Spend your time visiting with and observing the staff and determining what their roles are during family events.

- 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, so delay your note taking until after the event.

**After the event is over:**

- Write your notes immediately while the memories are fresh.
- Write a reflective report that describes the experience and includes the following points:
  - Describe the event and the preparation work that was required.
  - Describe how the event fostered family involvement in children’s development and learning.
  - Describe how the event met the above objectives and standards.
    - Responsive to the diversity and complexity of family systems. (#5)
    - Bring family members and community agencies together to create and support quality care and education programs. (#7)
    - Provide families with participatory experiences (DEC F6)
    - Provide opportunities promoting choice and decision making by families (DEC F6)
    - Engaging families in participatory experiences supporting parenting competence and confidence. (DEC F15)
    - Team members focus on the between-sessions time (i.e. build in activities that can be carried out across time and contexts). (DEC I18)
    - Involving families and communities in their child’s development and learning. (NAEYC 2c)
- Submit to your instructor:
  - the reflective report of the experience
  - the signed “**Field Experience Verification Form**”