

Strategies to Strengthen Relationships	
<p>Communicate Openly and Clearly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask open-ended questions that require a statement or elaboration in the response; questions that cannot be answered with a 'yes' or 'no'. • Actively listen by using eye contact, head nods, encouraging gestures that demonstrate empathy, engagement, and validation. • Communicate understanding by paraphrasing, summarizing, checking for understanding. • Respect parent's preferred language through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. use of interpreters b. translations of written materials c. use of key vocabulary in the family's home language
<p>Encourage Parent-Child Interaction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange the environment to support the interaction. • Set up the interaction to match the developmental needs of the child. • Ensure the interaction is mutually enjoyable for the parent and child.
<p>Affirm Parent Competencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize and acknowledge the value of parent's ideas about how they support their child's learning. • Recognize and acknowledge positive and effective actions parents engage in that are linked to their child's progress. • Describe effective actions parents engage in and connect those parent actions to specific, positive child behaviors and skill development. • Recognize and acknowledge parents' ideas and positive actions towards achieving family outcomes.
<p>Make Mutual/Joint Decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use recent observations from parents and educators to guide discussions and decisions. • Use available data from recent assessments/documentation. • Establish agreement about the developmental goals set for the child. • Jointly determine the activities/experiences to use to support the child's learning and towards achieving family outcomes. • Co-create plans for how to use the activities/experiences to support the child's learning and family outcomes.

Strategies to Build Competencies	
<p>Focus Parent's Attention on Child's Strengths</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orient parent's attention toward their child's specific developmental strengths and needs. • Identify the strengths and needs of the child as the focus of all interactions. • Share the child's strengths "in the moment" when the child demonstrates a skill. • Share the child's strengths based on past observation of the child's demonstrated skill.
<p>Share Developmental Information and Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share <i>relevant</i> developmental information based on recent observations or assessments of the child. • Describe "what comes next" in the child's development. • Information and resources are shared by educator and parent.
<p>Use Observations and Data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe child at home and in other settings. • Describe what the child can do and is trying to do. • Describe the child's progress toward meeting developmental goals. • Include formal and informal assessment data. • Consider how observational and assessment data can inform: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. decisions about "next steps" for the child/family's outcomes. b. the development of a plan to use effective strategies to support the child/family in attaining the outcomes.
<p>Model and/or Suggest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate how to use a specific action that supports the child's learning <i>and</i> provide an opportunity for the parent to practice the action. • Check for understanding of the action that has been demonstrated – what it is <i>and</i> how to use it effectively. • Provide specific suggestions for something to try with the child <i>or</i> which will benefit the child. • The educator or parent may be demonstrating or suggesting an action. • Educators should use modeling and suggesting to inform parent behavior only when absolutely needed or when requested by parent.