

Culturally Responsive and Relevant Teaching and Learning (CRRTL)
Culture and Language in TK: Supporting Teachers, Families, and Children
Family Conversations (guidelines)

I am delighted to have (name) join our classroom community. I am really looking forward to working with your family to support (name)'s learning experiences. Thank you for taking the time to have this conversation with me, so that I can get to know (name) and your family better. (Name) has learned a lot from your family already. I can learn from your family about (name), which will help me to develop rich lesson plans to ensure (name) learns even more and has a wonderful school experience.

What about (name) makes you smile? What is your dream for (name)?

What are some of the things you like to talk about with (name)?

When do you usually talk to (name)? (during meals, bedtime, doing chores, etc.)

Describe some of your family's important events.

How does your family acknowledge special family moments? (cultural meals, family time, music, etc.)

What do you want (name) to learn while at school this year?

What do you want (name) to learn from your family this year?

What are some of the ways (name) plays at home? (pretend play, games, tech, etc.)

What is your family home language? What does your child call you?

Do you have a picture of your family that we may include on our families wall in our classroom?

Who helps you to make decisions about (name)?

How many years has your family lived in the United States / or in this state?

How long have you lived in your neighborhood?



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Tell me about your school experiences and number of years completed.

Describe your family. (number of children, etc.)

Describe your family culture and ethnicity?

What are your culture's strengths?

What is a negative stereotype (untrue statement) about your culture? You are welcome to bring a family artifact to add to our classroom environment that represents the beauty of your culture.

Has (name) attended preschool before transitional kindergarten?

Has anyone else in your family attended preschool or transitional kindergarten?

Do you live walking or driving distance from a library?

Does (name) have a favorite book at home?

What makes (name) happy?

What does (name) do well?

What type of transportation will you use to get your child to school? (walking, bus, car, etc.) How long does it take you to get to school?

Who will be dropping your child off at school? Who will be picking your child up from school?

What can I do to help you and your child feel welcome at school and in our classroom community? (translator, positive images of your culture in our classroom, music, notes home, etc.) Thank you. It has been a pleasure talking with you. (Name) has such a special family. I am looking forward to working together this school year. You are always welcome in the classroom.



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Alignment of Cultural Context through Engagement Structure and Support
FAMILY ACCESS POINTS (guidelines)

Play Create space and time for your child to engage in unstructured supervised play. Offer materials like empty shoe boxes, empty paper towel rolls, etc. to stimulate imagination. Share moments of pretend play with your child.

Oral Embrace your family home language. Teach your child to be proud of his or her language and culture. Home languages are children's love languages, which come in many linguistic varieties and are beautiful aspects of family cultures.

Interest Take time to follow your child's interest. What is he or she interested in learning? Does your child show an interest in recycling while helping to clean the yard? Does your child show an interest in science while helping to bake bread? Does your child show an interest in math while helping to separate the clothes for laundry day? Cultivate your child's interest in your family's culture.

Nurturance Help your child to understand how your family members show that they care about each other. Consider the different ways that you show your child that you love him or her daily. Make up family love songs to sing and share.

Touch Create opportunities for your child to experience learning through touch. Let your child help in the garden, collect and count dry leaves, etc. (supervised).

Story Share stories with your child through reading books together, take picture walks through books while creating new stories; Let your child draw a picture and tell you the story. Engage in shared storytelling while walking to or from school or waiting in the line in the grocery store. Take turns adding to the story.



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Creating a Classroom Community

Family Storytelling Board— supporting oral language exchange by taking turns telling a story



Our Community of Helping Hands — Classroom Art with parents' and children's hands

All about Me and My Family book for the classroom library—include a Family photograph in the book



Bridge home and school experiences:
Family activity box—Created by Families using ACCESS POINTS as a guide



Create a warm classroom climate by inviting families to create art based on families' favorite books or memorable lived experiences

All family/projects are made from recycled materials

