



YOUR FAMILY, YOUR STRENGTHS: PARTNERING WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

You are your child's best and first teacher! The things you do everyday at home are all learning experiences. This three-step guide can help you reflect on the unique strengths your family brings—and give you simple ways to share them with your child's teacher and school.



**Recognize
Everyday Learning
Experiences**



**Reflect on Your
Family's Strengths**



**Share Your Family's
Strengths**

1 Recognize Everyday Learning Experiences



Check out these examples of the real, often overlooked, ways families teach, guide, and prepare children for success, both in and out of school.

Everyday Life as Education



- Involving children in household repairs teaches problem-solving, measurement, and planning.
- Cooking family recipes together builds math skills (measuring) as well as, sequencing, cultural knowledge, and patience.
- Budgeting together for groceries or bills helps kids learn about math, money, and decision-making.

Cultural Practices & Traditions



- Passing down family stories or oral histories builds memory, language skills, and a strong sense of identity.
- Celebrating cultural holidays or rituals gives children a sense of belonging and knowledge of the world.
- Teaching children traditional dances, songs, or crafts involve coordination, discipline, and creativity.



Language & Communication



- Translating between languages at home builds advanced communication and interpretation skills.
- Telling proverbs or teaching values through sayings helps children learn complex ideas in simple ways.
- Debating current events at the dinner table teaches critical thinking and respectful dialogue.

Connection to Nature & Practical Skills



- Gardening or growing food teaches biology, patience, and responsibility.
- Fishing, hunting, or gathering with family passes on ecological knowledge, survival skills, and respect for nature.
- Navigating new places together helps kids learn geography, planning, and independence.

Community Involvement



- Volunteering or caregiving in the community shows the value of service, empathy, and leadership.
- Hosting or attending family gatherings teaches social skills and relationship-building.
- Running a small business or side hustle as a family helps kids learn entrepreneurship, planning, and teamwork.

Informal Learning Environments



- Watching documentaries or listening to educational podcasts as a family sparks curiosity and conversation.
- Helping with DIY projects, crafts, or sewing encourages creativity and hands-on learning.
- Using spiritual or religious practices (like prayer, study, or meditation) teaches discipline, reflection, and moral reasoning.



What are some everyday learning experiences you and your child share?



2 REFLECT ON YOUR FAMILY'S STRENGTHS



These questions can help you reflect on the valuable knowledge, skills, and experiences your child gains just by being part of your family! Discuss the following together and remember: there are no right or wrong answers—just your unique story.

Our Family's Knowledge & Skills



- What are some skills or talents that you or your family members have (e.g., cooking, gardening, carpentry, sewing, music, technology, mechanics, etc.)?
- What kind of work (paid or unpaid) do adults in your household do? What skills are involved in that work?
- Are there any traditional practices, crafts, or ways of doing things that your family values and passes down?

Our Family's Language & Communication



- What languages are spoken in your home?
- Are there sayings, stories, or proverbs from your culture or language that hold special meaning for your family?
- How do you encourage communication and learning at home (e.g., storytelling, shared reading, discussions at meals)?

Our Family's Cultural Wealth & Community Connections



- What cultural traditions, holidays, or community events are important to your family?
- How does your family help others in your community (e.g., volunteering, mentoring, caregiving)?
- What are some challenges your family has overcome, and what strengths helped you through those times?



What are some of your family's unique strengths?



3 SHARE YOUR FAMILY'S STRENGTHS



Now that you have reflected on your family's strengths and assets, share them with your child's teacher. By sharing, you broaden the definition of what it means to support a child's education—and remind educators of the deep knowledge that already exists at home. Here are some helpful tips as you think about sharing:

Plan and Have Your Conversation



- Help your children talk about your family assets.
 - Ask your kids: What are some things about your family that you wish your teachers and friends at school knew?
- Think back to your own experiences in school, what do you wish teachers and the school knew about you and your family? Share this to educators.
- During a family (parent-teacher) conference, share a little about your family's interests, language, or traditions.
- Send a short beginning of year note or email telling the teacher about something your child does at home that reflects your family's values or culture.



Be a Classroom Resource

- Offer to share a talent, story, recipe, or tradition during a class activity or cultural event.
- Let the teacher know if you'd like to help with a project or volunteer in a way that uses your strengths.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

Everyday moments at home are full of powerful learning. By sharing your family's story, you're helping your child's educators have an accurate and well-rounded picture of who your child is. This not only strengthens relationships between home and school, but also helps ensure that all students are seen as capable, resourceful, and full of potential.

