

Take a Shared Approach



Orientation

Learning extension activities will help you deepen your knowledge about family engagement. These activities can be used to support your work daily or as part of a long-term goal. The activities in this guide provide ideas for reflection and opportunities to practice skills learned in the family engagement modules.

How to Use This Guide

Activities are designed for early childhood learning and care professionals, including family child care providers, teachers, administrators, coaches, home visitors, and librarians. Each activity can be used:

- **Individually** for self-study, self-reflection, and integrating family engagement practices into your work
- **With a partner** to learn about, explore, and reflect on implementing family engagement in your setting
- **With a group** as part of staff meetings, association events, or workshops to learn and reflect together about family engagement

Activities in This Guide

1. What Happens Next?
2. Taking a Shared Approach: A Self-Reflection
3. Simulation Variations

This guide focuses on using strengths-based relationships and strategies to take a shared approach when working with providers.

The following activities focus on applying the three strategies—Use a Strengths-based Approach, Listen Actively, and Take Informed Action—to relationships with providers.

1. What Happens Next?

This activity can be repeated using different scenarios and examples.

Resources You Will Need

- Scenarios Handout—You can also learn more about these scenarios in Module 5, Unit 1: Take a Shared Approach to Family Engagement, Unit 2: Strategies for Building Relationships with Providers, and Unit 3: Listen Actively.
- Tip Sheets
 - [Use a Strengths-based Approach \(for providers\)](#)
 - [Listen Actively](#)
 - [Take Informed Action \(for providers\)](#)

If you completed the e-learning units in Module 5, you may also find your journals from those units helpful.

- Module 5 Unit 1: My Family Engagement Journal - Take a Shared Approach to Family Engagement
- Module 5 Unit 2: My Family Engagement Journal - Strategies for Building Relationships with Providers
 - Use a Strengths-based Approach
 - Take Informed Action
- Module 5 Unit 3: My Family Engagement Journal - Listen Actively

Time: 30–60 minutes

How to Use This Learning Extension

• Individually

Complete activity steps 1–5, including the journal reflections. Reflect on what you learned or discovered.

• With a Partner

Option 1: Complete activity steps 1 and 2 individually. Discuss the guiding questions in step 4 with a partner and reflect on what you learned or discovered.

Option 2: Complete activity steps 1 and 2 individually. Choose one of the options listed in step 3 and complete it with a partner. Reflect together using the questions in step 4, and then answer the following questions: How are your responses different or the same? What are some things you learned from your discussion? Reflect together on what you learned.

• With a Group

As a group, complete step 1 and proceed with the following steps:

- a. Complete the tasks in step 2 and share your responses.
- b. Have group members continue the conversation by role-playing the interaction with a partner, and have partners reflect on their experiences role-playing using the questions in step 4.
- c. To conclude, engage in a group discussion using the guiding questions in step 4 and reflection in step 5.

Activity Directions**STEP 1**

Review the video scenario from unit 2, choose a scenario from the scenario handout, or think about the relationship you have with a provider that you want to strengthen as written in your My Family Engagement Journal.

STEP 2

Imagine that you are having the next conversation with the provider.

- a. Reflect on:
 - Your personal and cultural perspectives
 - The provider's individual and cultural perspectives
- b. Inquire using these questions:
 - What came up for you, both positive and negative?
 - How might these feelings or reactions influence your relationship with the provider?
- c. Choose a Strengths-based Attitude to help you use a Strengths-based Approach. How will you use the Strengths-based Attitude you chose to help you focus on the provider's strengths?
- d. Choose a Relationship-based Practice and reflect on how you will respond when interacting with the provider using this practice.

STEP 3

Continue to use the strategies and tools to work with this interaction by journaling, role-playing with a partner, or working through what you will say and how you think the provider might respond with a group.

STEP 4

Reflect on this interaction using these guiding questions:

- a. What did you discover about this provider?
- b. Was there a time during this interaction you felt went well? What happened during the interaction to indicate it went well?
- c. What do you think this interaction was like for the provider?

STEP 5

Reflect on what you did and learned as part of your ongoing professional development.



Bonnie and Nancy

You can locate this video among the Quality Counts California Family Engagement Toolkit videos.



SCENARIO 1

You and another provider disagree on how best to address a parent who consistently does not follow through with bringing in diapers as requested and needed.

SCENARIO 2

You and another provider disagree on how to best address a parent who consistently lingers at drop-off, making it difficult for the child to separate from the parent upon their departure.

SCENARIO 3

A provider does not want to follow the lesson plan around an upcoming holiday because it goes against their personal religious beliefs.

SCENARIO 4

A provider is late arriving to work and therefore misses their morning duty assignment. You had to fill in for them. This is the third time this month that has happened. You want to talk about it, but you aren't sure how to approach the provider.

SCENARIO 5

A provider does not view rough-and-tumble play with children as aggressive behavior.

2. Taking a Shared Approach: A Self-Reflection

This activity can be repeated using different actions from the Take a Shared Approach Self-Reflection handout.

Resources You Will Need

- Companion Resource: [Take a Shared Approach](#)

Time: 30–45 minutes

How to Use This Learning Extension

• Individually

Complete activity steps 1–4 and reflect on your responses.

• With a Partner

Complete steps 1 and 2 individually. Complete step 3 and take turns discussing the guiding questions with a partner. Discuss the plan you have for your next steps.

Guidance for coach/supervisor: Partner with a provider and have them complete steps 1–3 independently. Once they complete step 3, have them share their responses with you. Develop a plan with the provider to work on their next steps. Determine a time frame to discuss progress.

• With a Group

As a group, complete steps 1–3 and proceed with the following steps:

- Have each person share one action that they want to work on from column 2 (Working On) or column 3 (Want to Improve) of the Take a Shared Approach Self-Reflection handout.

- Ask each person to determine a timeline for working on implementing more consistently the action they chose.

- Discuss as a group.

OR

- Have each person share one action from either column 2 (Working On) or column 3 (Want to Improve) (you choose which column) from the Take a Shared Approach Self-Reflection handout.
- Have individuals partner with one or two providers who chose the same action they did.
- Ask each person in the small group to determine a timeline for working on implementing more consistently the action they chose.
- Ask the small groups to set a date to come back together to reflect on their progress.
- Then have a whole-group discussion using the questions in step 3.

Activity Directions

STEP 1

Complete the Take a Shared Approach Self-Reflection handout.

STEP 2

Reflect on your answers in column 2 (Working On) and column 3 (Want to Improve).

STEP 3

Choose at least one action from column 2 (Working On) or column 3 (Want to Improve) and answer the following guiding questions:

- a. What are the next steps that you can take to help you do this more consistently?
- b. What resources or strengths do you have that can help you do this more consistently?
- c. What will progress look like?
- d. What is your time frame for looking at the progress you made?

STEP 4

Repeat this activity with other actions from column 2 (Working On) or column 3 (Want to Improve) from the Take a Shared Approach Self-Reflection handout. Consider sharing your next steps with another colleague.



Take a Shared Approach Self-Reflection

Taking a shared approach means you use the same strategies that you use to build relationships with families, colleagues, or other providers. Taking a shared approach may take time to develop. Reflecting on where you are in the process can help you better understand where you are and where you would like to go.

Answer the following questions to determine where you are in the process of taking a shared approach with other providers.

Shared Approach Actions	Already Doing (I do this consistently)	Working On (I do this sometimes)	Want to Improve (I do this less often)	Plan for Next Steps
1. When I am challenged by another provider, I approach the relationship from a strengths-based place by looking at the strengths that the provider has.				
2. I look for the positive in my work even when there are things that I may not like.				
3. I ask for support from other providers when trying new skills.				
4. I let other providers know that their perspective matters and that I value their expertise.				
5. I reflect and learn together with other providers.				
6. I build trusting relationships with other providers.				
7. I create a program climate that is positive, safe, and comfortable for children, families, and providers.				

3. Simulation Variations

Resources You Will Need

- Module 5 Simulations
 - Practice: Take a Shared Approach
 - Practice: Starting with Strengths
- Tip Sheets
 - [Use a Strengths-based Approach \(for providers\)](#)
 - [Listen Actively](#)
 - [Take Informed Action \(for providers\)](#)

Time: 30–45 minutes

How to Use This Learning Extension

• Individually

Choose one of the options listed in step 1. Complete the option you chose. Then, in your journal, reflect on the questions listed under the option you selected.

• With a Partner

Choose one of the options listed in step 1. You and your partner can choose the same option, or you can choose different options to work with. If you choose the same option, complete steps 1 and 2 together. If you each choose a different option, complete the activities individually. Then meet to debrief what you each learned and how you will use that in your work with families. Complete step 2 with your partner.

• With a Group

As a group, complete the activities under each option in step 1. If your group is large, consider working on the activity in small groups or individually before coming together to share and discuss their learning. End by having each member complete step 2 and share with another person.

Activity Directions

STEP 1

Choose one of the options below to continue using the simulations in this module to support your family engagement work. You can return to these activities repeatedly for different experiences as many times as you would like to deepen your practice.

Option 1: Intentionally make choices throughout the simulation you feel aren't the best options; what do you notice? Reflect on:

- a. Your personal and cultural perspectives
- b. The provider's individual and cultural perspectives
- c. What you discovered and how it might influence your relationship with this provider if you worked with them
- d. What you would do to re-engage with this provider based on what you learned

Option 2: Role-play with a partner what happens next in the simulation scenario. One partner can take the role of the provider, and the other can take the role of the supervisor.

- a. Select a strategy and tool to try.
- b. Try out the strategy and tool.
- c. Reflect on what happened and what you discovered.

Option 3: Work with the simulation and pause each time the provider in the simulation reflects.

- a. Journal your own reflections about what is happening at those times.
- b. Review your reflections and identify how you will use what you discover to inform your own work with others.

Option 4: Complete the simulation and review your Performance Dashboard at the end of the simulation.

- a. What did you discover about the strategies and using them to build a strengths-based relationship with the provider in the simulation?
- b. Note the strategies and tools you feel you used well and which ones you have opportunities to improve.
- c. How will you use what you discovered about applying the strategies in the simulations in your relationships with providers?

STEP 2

Reflect on what you experienced and learned as part of your ongoing professional development.

