

Head Start & ECTA Resources



Subscribe

[Click here](#) to subscribe to the newsletter series.

[Click here](#) to view previous issues.

The [Head Start Disabilities Services Newsletter](#) is produced monthly by the National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning (NCECDTL). It is dedicated to staff working with young children with disabilities and their families.

ECTA's Practice Guide's for Families



The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) has released [Practice Guide's for Families](#) based on the Division of Early Childhood's (DEC) Recommended Practices. These guides are intended for practitioners to share with families who have children with disabilities.

The Family Practice Guide, [Everyday Learning at Home](#) helps families who have children with disabilities find ways to better support their participation in learning activities at home. This practice guide includes tips and ideas for arranging your home to promote learning. The guide also includes a [video](#) that can be shared with families that shows ways they can support their children's participation in everyday learning opportunities and provides a link to the article, [News You Can Use: Learning At Home and Homelike Environments](#), by Head Start.





Resources for Families and Providers



4 things providers can do with these resources:

1. Subscribe to the free monthly newsletters for new ideas and resources to use with children with disabilities and their families.
2. Use the [Learning Guide video](#) in a parent meeting or as a link on their website to emphasize the importance of families supporting their children's learning and development at home.
3. Use the ideas in [Bringing in Home Cultures](#) to help families feel welcomed and respected.
4. Provide professional development to teachers and staff on [Supporting Safe Home Environments](#) to help families make sure their "home environment" is safe and stimulating for babies and young children.

4 things families can do with these resources:

1. Learn the importance of [environmental adaptations](#) to support disabled children's learning development in the home.
2. Watch the [Everyday Learning at Home video](#) to understand the ways they can support their children's development at home.
3. Learn about the [Outdoor Play Benefits](#) for young children.
4. Find ways to use [assistive technology](#) to help young children learn at home.



Resources Within Reason

[Resources within Reason](#) is a free, one-way listserv provided by the DEC. All resources are evidence-based, readily available and free. Resources within Reason may be freely shared or reproduced.

The September 2017 issue, [Engaging Each Family](#), provides an overview of family engagement and resources to support collaboration with families of diverse cultures, languages, configurations, and circumstances. Some of the resources provided in this issue includes:

- [Fostering Parent and Professional Collaboration: Research Brief](#)
This document summarizes historical trends in parent-professional collaboration, with emphasis on families in which there is a child with a disability. It explains the research behind such collaboration, describes potential barriers to effective partnerships, and provides strategies for successful collaborations.
- [Strong at the Broken Places: The Resiliency of Low-Income Parents](#)
This policy report shares how, despite barriers, many poor children have resilient parents who help them not just survive, but thrive. The report explores common attributes among family members who can function well when faced with challenges as well as parenting styles most closely associated with positive social and developmental behavior in children.
- [Supporting Parent Engagement in Linguistically Diverse Families to Promote Young Children's Learning: Implications for Early Care and Education Policy](#)
This brief highlights research that can inform early care and education policies to promote the engagement of linguistically diverse families with young children.
- [Additional Resources on Family Engagement](#)
Thanks to the Vermont Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant, this annotated set of free resources for supporting families with children is available.



4 things providers can do with these resources:

1. Create [welcoming and supportive environments](#) for linguistically diverse families.
2. Use the [Family – Centered Practices Checklist](#) to assess their program’s family practices.
3. Review resources from [Resources for Supporting Young Children Who Are DLLs and Families](#) (pg. 18). Decide which resources will help your program engage families of DLL children.
4. Choose books from UNC’s [2018 Children’s Book List](#) that promote positive social-emotional development and explore diverse abilities to share in the classroom.

4 things families can do with these resources:

1. Create an [“All About Me” book](#) about their child. Families can share this book with their child’s teacher to communicate their child’s strengths.
2. Use the [Template for Conversations Between Families and Teachers](#) from the [Family Engagement Toolkit](#) to discuss their child’s learning and development and plan for how to support their child’s developmental growth.
3. Learn ways to partner with their child care providers to infuse cultural diversity into their programs.
4. Use the [Making Good Choices Family Guide](#) to find how to get quality information to help make the better decisions for their families.



Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning



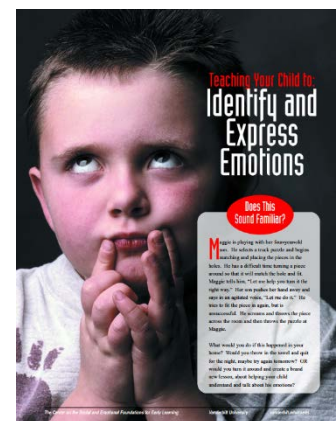
Family Tools

[The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning](#) (CSEFEL) has great resources for families and providers including [Positive Solutions for Families](#), a family training that includes PowerPoints, a facilitator's guide and a family workbook (available in English and Spanish). The training is broken into 6 sessions.

1. **Positive Solutions for Families: Making a Connection!** which focuses on building relationships, quality time, positive comments and encouragement.
2. **Positive Solutions for Families: Making It Happen!** which focuses on play as a powerful parenting practice, supporting the development of friendship skills and encouraging positive behaviors.
3. **Positive Solutions for Families: Why Do They Do What They Do?** which focuses on determining the meaning of behavior, making expectations clear and developing and teaching household rules.
4. **Positive Solutions for Families: Teach Me What to Do!** which focuses on emotional vocabulary, managing anger and handling disappointment and problem solving.
5. **Positive Solutions for Families: Facing the Challenge, Part 1** which focuses on strategies to promote positive behavior.
6. **Positive Solutions for Families: Facing the Challenge, Part 2** which focuses on problem solving, challenging behaviors and everyday routines.

Other Family Tools available from CSEFEL include these Family Guides that are available to download or print.

- [Teaching Your Child To: Identify and Express Emotions](#)
- [Make the Most of Playtime](#)
- [Teaching Your Child About Feelings](#)
- [Teaching Your Child to Become Independent with Daily Routines](#)
- [Teaching Your Child To Cooperate with Requests](#)
- [Responding to Your Child's Bite](#)
- [Understanding Your Child's Behavior: Reading Your Child's Cues from Birth to Age 2](#)



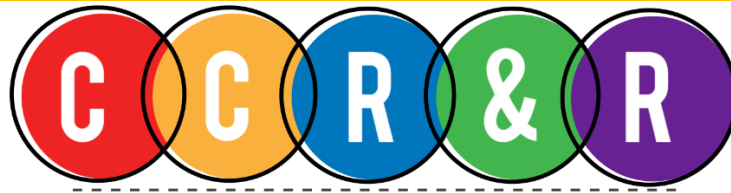


4 things providers can do with these resources:

1. Offer a series of family workshops focused on the social and emotional development of children. Use the [modules, facilitator's guide and family workbook](#) to offer information and activities for families to do at home with their children.
2. Send the tips home to parents or use the tips at conferences.
3. Post the tips on your website or use them on social media.
4. Discuss the tips at staff meetings and have the teachers use the tip sheet to talk to the parents about social and emotional development at parents' meetings or conferences.

4 things families can do with these resources:

1. Attend family workshops or parent meetings to learn more about their children's social and emotional development.
2. Read the tips to find ways to support their children's social and emotional development at home.
3. Read the [Teaching Your Child to Become Independent with Daily Routines](#) and use the ideas to teach their children to do simple, daily self-help activities and self-care skills at home.
4. Discover ways to help their children handle emotions and frustrations at home.



Resources for Families and Providers



[Ray and the Sunbeatables®: A Sun Safety Curriculum](#) was created and developed by [The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center](#) and disseminated by [CATCH® Global Foundation](#). This evidence-based curriculum educates children, parents and teachers about sun protection and promotes sun safety behaviors in an effort to reduce children's lifetime risk of developing skin cancer.

Visit the [preschool](#) and/or [K-1](#) pages for a more in-depth overview of the Sunbeatables Program and view a [quick tutorial](#) on how to use the website.

[Preschool Teacher's Guide](#)

The Teacher's Guide provides a background on the five sun safety behaviors (wearing protective clothing, hats, and sunglasses, using sunscreen and finding shade), a curriculum overview, tips on incorporating lessons into the daily classroom routine and engaging with parents. The guide also provides tools on how to make sun protection more visible in the school setting and change school policies to support sun safety.

[Preschool Curriculum](#)

In this curriculum, children meet the Ray and the Sunbeatables® superheroes, who travel around the world using their superpowers of sun protection. Children are encouraged to participate in curriculum activities to help Ray and his friends stay sun safe every day and everywhere they go. The preschool curriculum includes 5 units with 4 activities each. Activities are designed to be flexible and easy to incorporate into daily classroom routines. [Preview an activity](#) to learn more.

To find out more about the Sunbeatables watch the [recorded webinar](#).





Resources for Families and Providers



4 things providers can do with these resources:

1. Because Florida is the Sunshine State, children are exposed to the sun's rays all year long. Providers can use this free curriculum to address the health issue of sun protection.
2. Do some science experiments. The science experiments included in the program are applicable to the Early Learning and Developmental Standards.
3. Send the included notecards to parents to keep them informed of the activities the children are doing and the information their children are learning about sun safety.
4. Use the posters as reminders for the staff, the children and parents of the importance of sun safety.

4 things families can do with these resources:

1. Read the notecards and letters sent home from the child care provider and discuss the information about sun safety with their children.
2. Try some of the activities at home with their children, such as singing the Sun Safety Song together.
3. Make sure the children follow the sun safety rules at home.
4. Use the characters from the program to remind their children of the sun safety rules.