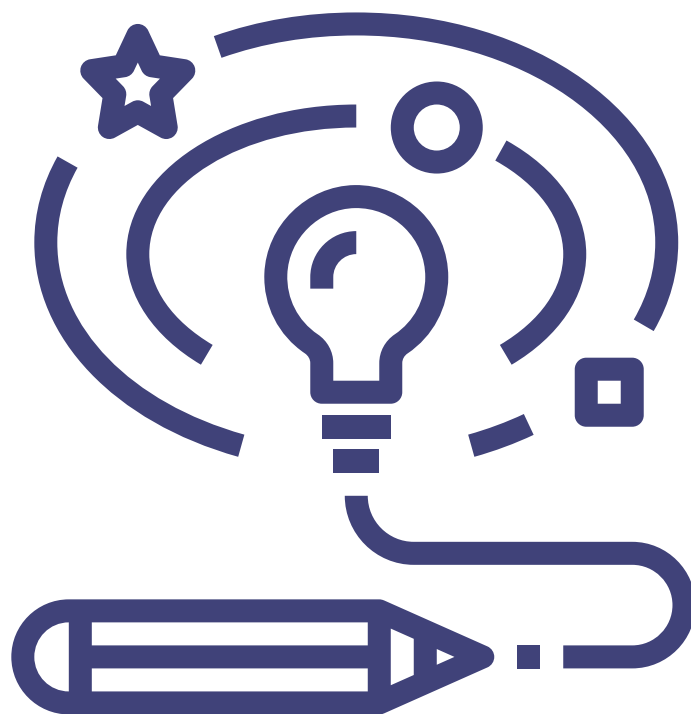


ECE 133 BRIGHT FUTURES: ENGAGING  
AND ENCOURAGING FAMILIES OF  
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

# Learning Journal





## REFERRALS:

MOST \_\_\_\_\_ ARE IDENTIFIED  
WITHIN THE FIRST \_\_\_\_\_.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD  
PROFESSIONAL?

Concern:

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Diagnosis:

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REFERRAL INFORMATION?

Birth to 3 \_\_\_\_\_

3 to 5 years \_\_\_\_\_

Two key talking points I would like to remember:

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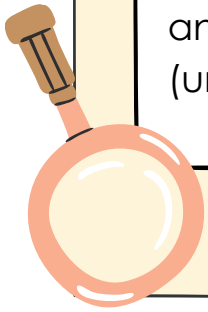
# CAUSE & EFFECT

## CAUSE:

Incorporation of activities that encourage young children to learn about themselves and others (uniqueness).

## EFFECT:

## EFFECT:



Choose at least one extension activity to incorporate in the program or classroom. How will you implement? Why did you choose it?



Children must learn they are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and that everyone is different. Being different is \_\_\_\_\_.

# My list of affirming statements?



Create a list of 3 statements you can use in a classroom and provide to families as examples.

## Statements



Talking about how we are all unique and wonderful should not be a \_\_\_\_\_ activity.



Families need to give children as many \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ experiences in the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as possible

Choose at least one activity to incorporate for program and family engagement and provide details.

# Community Engagement:

Engaging in the community in multiple ways allows children with disabilities to \_\_\_\_\_ with various unique and interesting individuals, grow in their \_\_\_\_\_, and widen their circle of \_\_\_\_\_.



## Expectations:

Using Lexi's family as an example, take a few minutes before moving on and brainstorm 2 to 3 ways you could support a family in this situation or locate a resource that would help you assist the family.



An early childhood professional that encourages families to raise \_\_\_\_\_ can have a profound supportive \_\_\_\_\_ on helping families from an early age to see the \_\_\_\_\_ for their children.

# Strengths and Interests:

The best way a parent can discover and nurture these is to provide children with various \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ them when they are engaged

**Making connections to motivate**

Providing real-world activities and opportunities extends \_\_\_\_\_ in authentic and fun ways that help motivate the child to learn at a \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ and grow their interests and strengths. Building on these interests and strengths can lay the groundwork when planning for \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.

List 3 ways families and/or early care and education professionals can help children discover their strengths and interests.

Encourage parents to do the following with their child(ren), including those with disabilities when introducing chores:

Parents Tips:



What are the benefits for both families and professionals in creating a 'This Is Me' binder? How can you assist and support families?



Fostering an \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ environment can go a long way in helping parents feel \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to share information. You will also want to share information with the family. The more they \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ what is happening in the classroom and program, the better they can support learning in the home.

List two ways you can encourage families to assist others in understanding and supporting their child?

# COMMUNICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Planning interactions around singing, dancing, and art is an excellent way you and the family can engage children in low-stress communication activities. Think and write about other activities that provide these types of opportunities:

**At school:**

**At home:**

**In the community:**

Encouraging families to have open \_\_\_\_\_ and ongoing \_\_\_\_\_ with professionals helps ensure everyone is working together and on the same page.



# Making Connections

There are a lot of resources to help you and your families; take a few moments as you go through this lesson and jot down important information and items you want to remember in each of the following categories.

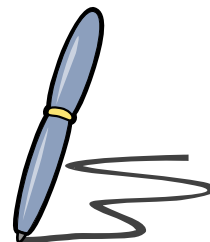
Groups and  
organizations

Parents as advocates

Understanding  
children's rights

Websites

Laws and/or policies I would recommend that families of children with disabilities become familiar with?



## Important Benefits and Resources

It is essential to be aware of and share benefits and resources with families of children with disabilities when needed. Your knowledge counts, it allows you to better serve families by guiding them toward programs that can assist them with supports or resources.

### A. Waivers

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### B. ABLE Accounts

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### C. Resources

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# Reflection:

## **Learned:**

What I learned I didn't know?



What I would like to learn more about?

PURPOSE LOADING...



## **Purposeful Action:**

Who are the people I want to connect with and/or my first resources to review?



## **Takeaways and Questions:**

What thoughts, feelings, reactions or key takeaways do you want to capture?  
What questions do you want to sit with? What challenges did you have?

# SMART GOALS

Use the SMART goals and choose one item from the previous list to work on first and online a plan to achieve.

One main goal I plan to completed after this course is to:

**S**  
SPECIFIC

What do I want to happen?

**M**  
MEASUREABLE

How will I know when I have achieved my goal?

**A**  
ATTAINABLE

Is the goal realistic and how will I accomplish it?

**R**  
RELEVANT

Why is my goal important to me?

**T**  
TIMELY

What is my deadline for this goal?