

TEAM   
KENTUCKY®

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
EARLY CHILDHOOD

CULTIVATING  
CONNECTIONS  
THROUGH  
HOME  
VISITATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTE

DATE

# Objectives:

- The Importance of Home Visits
- Importance of Connections
- Cultural Competency
- Preparing for Home Visits
- Goal Setting Together
- How can I make the biggest Impact

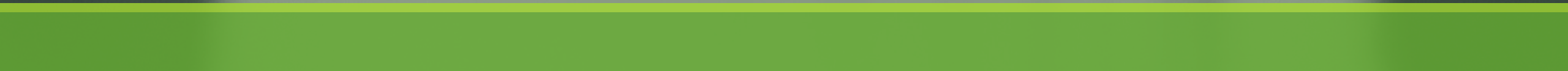


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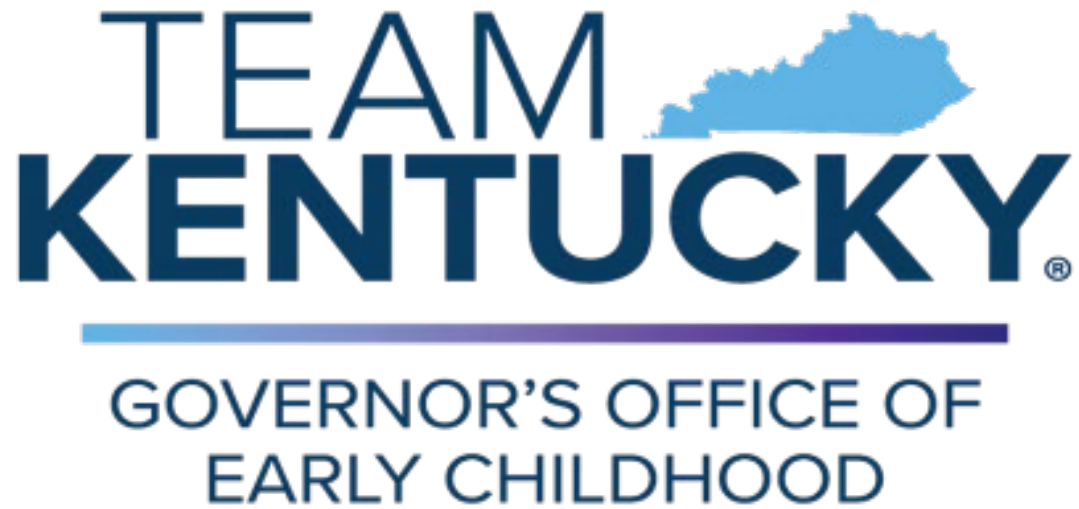
# The Importance of Home Visits

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Lisa | Program Participant



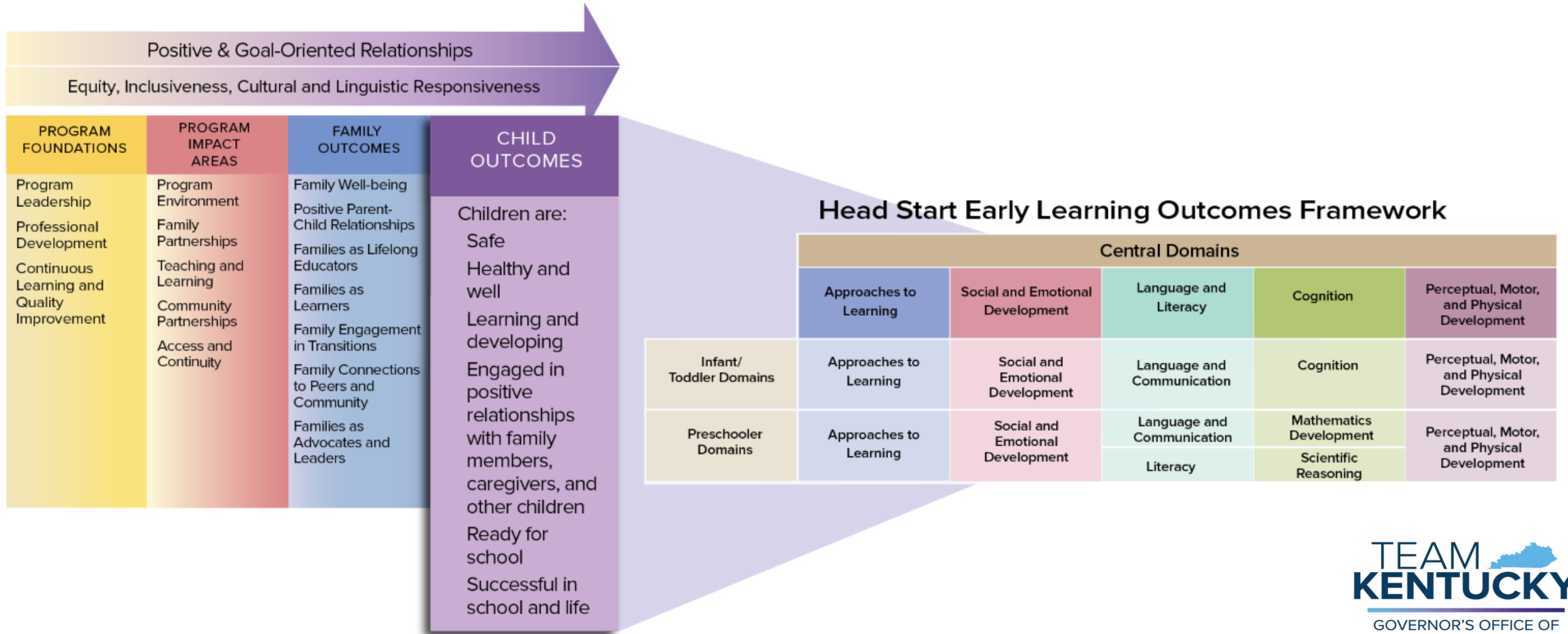
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What are your barriers, reservations, or fears when it comes to home visits?

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# Finding the Value in Home Visits



# Statistics Show the Power of Home Visits

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**84%** reported that home visits positively impacted their relationship with parents

**48%** reduction in substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect in low-income families

Improve students' academic performance, with some studies noting increases in test scores by **10-25%** for children whose families participated in home visit programs

Statistics indicating that families participating in home visit programs show **30-50%** higher engagement in school activities compared to those who do not

Home visits can help reduce parental stress, with surveys indicating that about **40-60%** of participating parents report feeling less stressed after receiving support through home visitation programs



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# Unlocking Hidden Strengths

Parents want what is best for their child, but they often feel that they cannot do it on their own. They are doing the best they can with the tools that they have. As teachers are experts in the classroom, parents are experts on their children.

As educators, we can bridge the gap by partnering with parents to include them in the experience. Home visits allow us to have real and genuine conversations tailored to the specific child and family. Home visits allow this to be in a space known and comfortable to the family while giving educators the opportunity to step into their world. This allows both educators and caregivers to ask all the questions that they need to best serve the child.



# Empowering Caregivers in their Role

-Family Partnerships

-Encourages family participation and involvement, addresses barriers

-Understanding of family dynamics

-Whole family approach

-Goal setting

-Parent Committee and Policy Council- Involving parents in all aspects of decision making

**EQUALITY**

vs

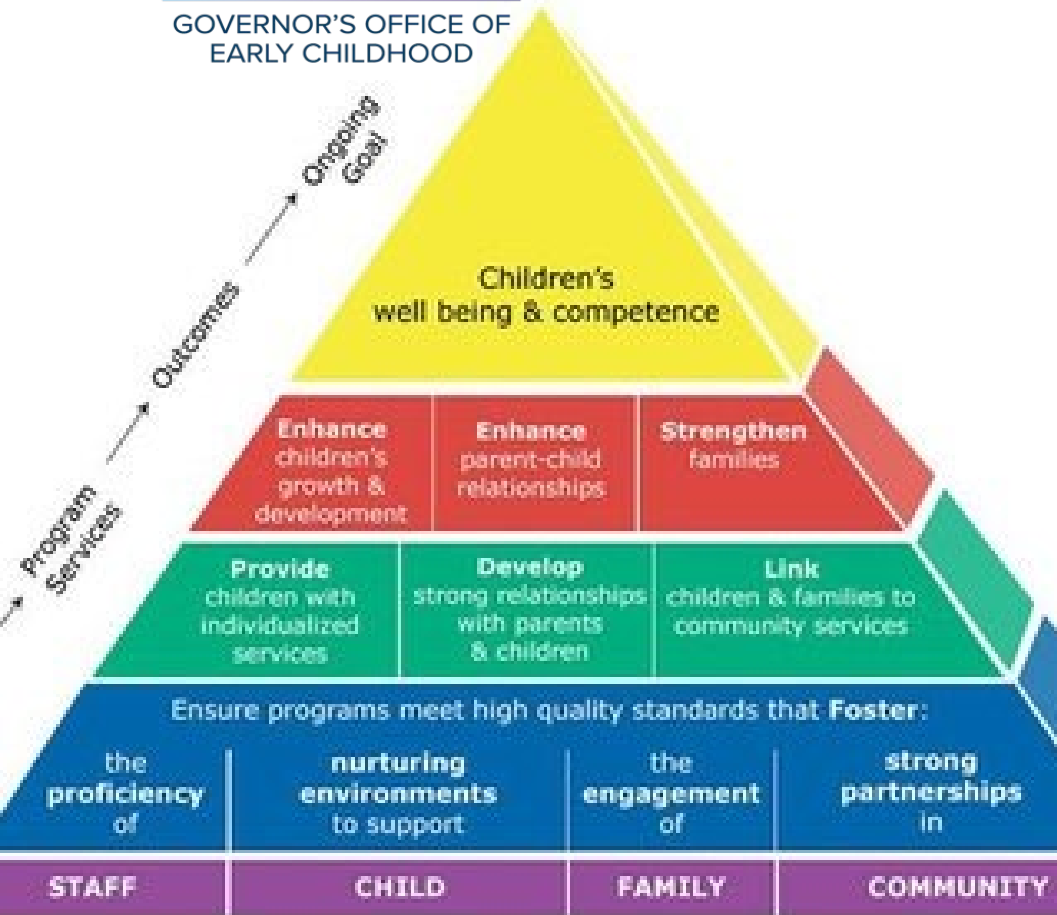
**EQUITY**



# Supporting Child Development

- Changes the teacher's mindset
- Relationships/parent involvement
- Personalized support
- Cultural relevance
- Early Interventions and ongoing support
- Taking information into the classroom
- Resource Access
- Observational Insight





# Greater Investment in Education

- Identifying strengths and barriers
- Promoting academic engagement
- Supportive learning environment
- Modeling a shared responsibility
- Strengthening Community ties for a continuous support system



## Trust and Collaboration

-Explaining to the family beforehand about the purpose and process of the planned home visit.

-Be prepared. Know what you can about the family, have clear objectives, and have your material.

-Be welcoming. Express gratitude and respect their privacy. Thank them for allowing you into their space.

-Be consistent.

-Establishing a strong rapport with families.

-Listen and ask questions.

-First day ready

-Follow up



# The Importance of Connection

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# Conversation Starters

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-During your Family Needs Assessment, you had said \_\_\_\_\_ is something special about your family. Can you tell me more? Was it places to go or things to do? Have them talk about their family.

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-What is the best way to communicate with you?

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-What would you say your family strengths are?

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-What are you hoping to gain from the program?

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-What are your go to conversation starters or something that has worked in the past?

# Strong Relationships Enhance Communication

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Active listening that ensure families feel heard and valued

- Pay attention
- Be present in conversations free of judgement
- Reflect and empathize
- Be mindful of verbal and nonverbal cues



# Engaging Fathers from the Beginning...

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## **Common Challenges:**

Misperception that home visits aren't for men

Staff resistance

Maternal gatekeeping

Safety concerns

Scheduling

Staff training to address both parents needs

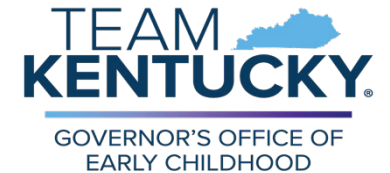
## **Strategies:**

Improving the father readiness of services

Ensuring outreach practices are father-friendly

Implementing staffing practices that engage fathers

Tailoring program content and delivery format to engage fathers





# Cultural Competency

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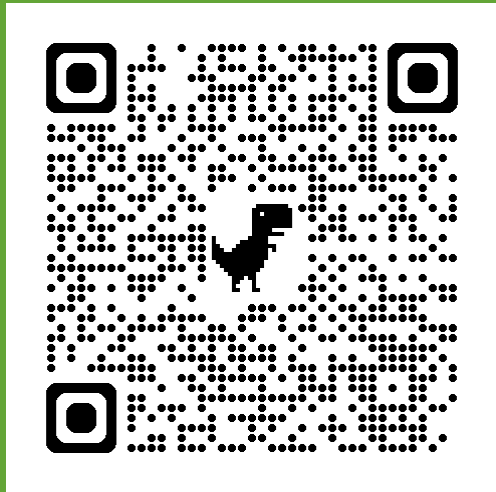
# What is Cultural Competency?

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Cultural competence refers to the ability to understand, communicate with, and effectively interact with people across different cultures. It involves recognizing one's own cultural biases and perspectives, as well as being aware of the cultural context of others.



# Cultural Bias test



**Awareness:** Recognizing one's own cultural identities and how they influence perspectives and behaviors.

**Knowledge:** Understanding the cultural practices, worldviews, and values of different groups, including history and social dynamics.

**Skills:** Developing the ability to communicate effectively and respectfully with individuals from diverse backgrounds, adapting approaches, as necessary.

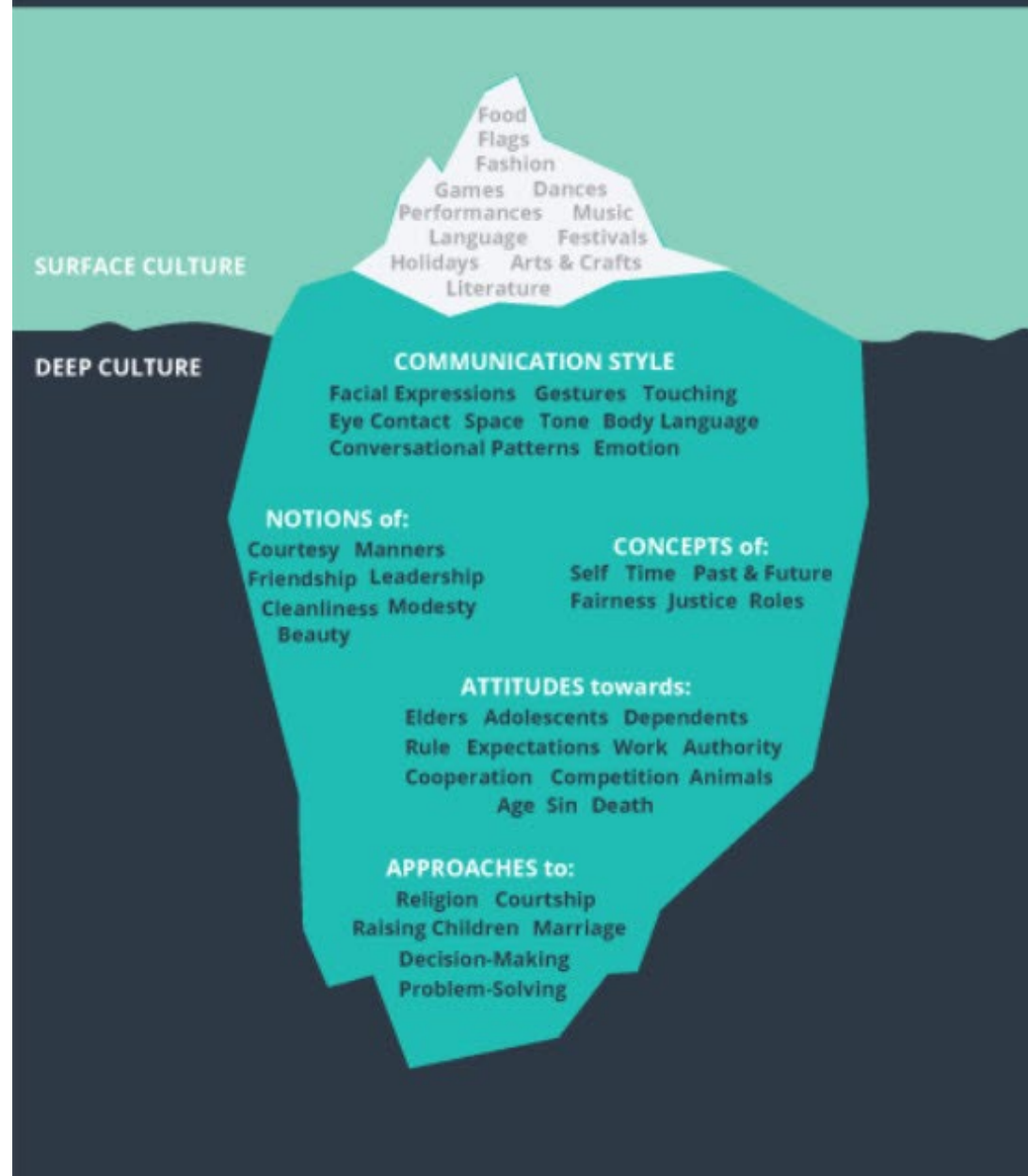
**Attitude:** Fostering openness, curiosity, and a willingness to learn from others, which is crucial for meaningful interactions.



When you think  
of Culture what  
comes to mind?

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# The Cultural Iceberg



# Cultural Connections

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-Ideas & Thinking

-Language/Material

-Beliefs & Values

-Interactions & Communications

-Child Care Practice

~~UNPREPARED~~



*Be prepared*

Preparing  
For Home  
Visits





# Pre Home-Visit Planning

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SET YOURSELF UP FOR SUCCESS...

# Observational Insight

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Environmental Factors

Parent-child relationship

Support System

Strengths

Needs

What do you see?



# Learning at Home

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**Creating a Learning Environment:** Your home can be a rich learning space. Simple things like reading together, exploring nature, or engaging in creative play can foster curiosity and a love of learning. These activities not only build foundational skills but also encourage a sense of wonder and exploration.

**Modeling Behavior:** Children learn by observing. When you engage in lifelong learning activities—whether that’s reading, cooking together, or discussing new ideas—you model enthusiasm for learning. This instills in them the belief that learning is valuable and fun.

**Emotional Support:** Your encouragement and praise help build your child's confidence and resilience. A strong emotional foundation allows them to take risks in learning, ask questions, and express themselves freely.



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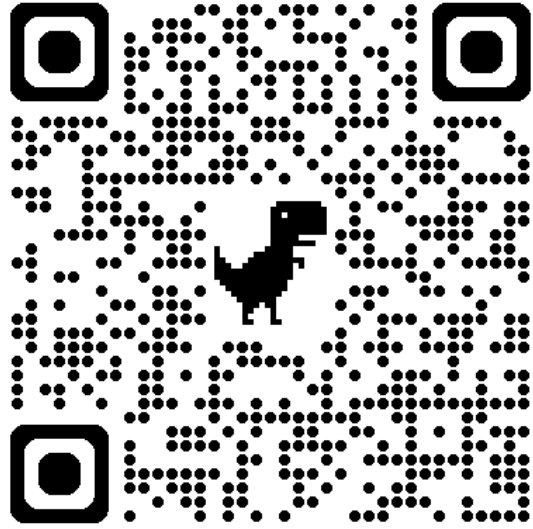
# Learning at School

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**Partnering with Educators:** Your active involvement in your child's educational journey—whether by attending parent-teacher meetings, volunteering, or staying informed about their progress—helps create a supportive bridge between home and school. This partnership enhances your child's learning experience.

**Continuing Conversations:** Engage in conversations about what they learn at school. Asking open-ended questions stimulates their critical thinking and helps reinforce the concepts they encounter daily.

**Encouraging Social Skills:** Support your child in building relationships with peers. Social interaction is crucial for their emotional and cognitive development. Your guidance in navigating friendships will help them feel comfortable and confident in social settings.



# Goal Setting Together

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# Small Steps to Big Visions...



1. Identify the goal



2. Break down the goal



3. Create an action plan



4. Establish a support system



5. Adjust as necessary



6. Utilize tools and resources

# Becoming Pro-active vs. Re-active

## Equipping caregivers with the right tools

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1. FINANCIAL  
WORKSHOPS AND  
BUDGETING TOOLS



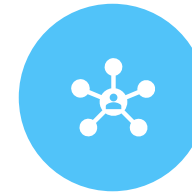
2. GOAL SETTING WITH  
SMART GOALS



3. PRIORITY LIST



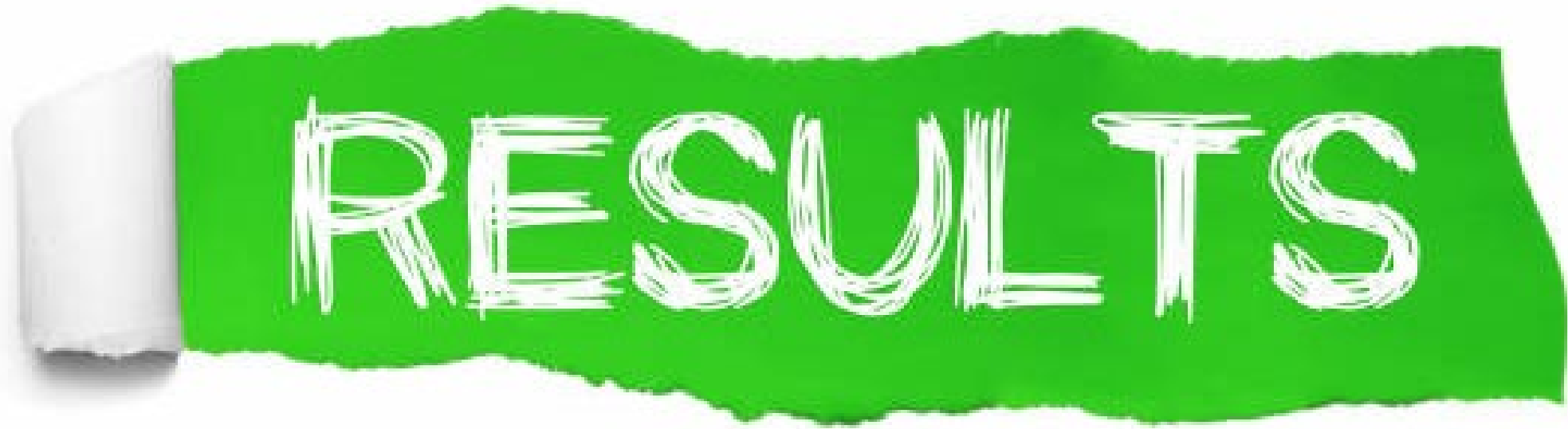
4. SUPPORT SYSTEM  
WITH CHECK INS



5. ACCESS TO  
RESOURCES/COMMUNIT  
Y CONNECTIONS



6. IMPROVING THE HEAD  
START FAMILY  
OUTCOMES



How To Make The Biggest Impact

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# Home Visit Scenario Practice

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## Post Home-Visit Reflection

The home visiting staff should always maintain confidentiality. Home visit information should be used as intended.

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## Contact Information