

ACTIVITY 7

Engaging Families



INTENT:

Participants apply personal classroom experiences to strategies found in the framework and plan activities to engage families in earth science.

OUTCOMES:

Participants read, discuss, and write answers to questions on the Handout 8: Engaging Families with Earth Science and select strategies from the back of handout that support earth science and engaging families in the classroom.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:



- Handout 8: Engaging Families with Earth Science
- PowerPoint
- Groupmates
- Pencil
- Preschool Curriculum Framework (PCF), Volume 3 (optional)



TIME: 20 minutes

PROCESS:



- Provide participants with Handout 8: Engaging Families with Earth Science.
- Invite participants to first discuss and then write an answer for the first prompt with their group:
 - Think about the interests you have observed in your children; list those interests here (e.g., soil, changes in weather, building with earth materials).
- Invite participants to first discuss and then write an answer for the second prompt with their group:
 - Focusing on these interests, what are the bigger key concepts children are engaging with?
- Invite participants to first discuss and then write an answer for the third prompt with their group:
 - Think about the unique local resources in your community; list those resources here (e.g., orange grove, cherry orchard, excavating company, national park, river, local bait shop, etc.).
- Invite participants to complete the **3-2-1 Action!** process:
 - Look at the list of ideas/strategies to involve and engage families from the preschool curriculum framework (on reverse side of the handout); then:
 - Choose **3** of the ideas from the involve and engage families list
 - Consider **2** of the community resources listed above
 - Create **1** plan for extending the interests and learning of the children in earth sciences by combining these ideas and resources (family involvement and engagement ideas and community resources)

ACTIVITY 7

Share-Out:

- Participants stand up and find a partner with whom they share a fondness for an earth material (e.g., both like sand, both like seashells, both collect rocks, both enjoy working with clay, etc.) and share action plan.
- At the chime, partners seek out another pair that are fond of a different earth material; participants will take turns teaching the other pair about their partner's idea.