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Description automatically generated with medium confidenceFamily Engagement and Support Strategies

**Activity Ideas**



**What to do:** Review the suggested strategies, add to or modify them, and choose some to enhance your program’s family activities. In the Our Plan column, suggest ways to put the strategy into action. Because staff, students, and families come and go over time, family relationship-building should be an ongoing priority.

**Why it matters:** Family engagement benefits students’ well-being and helps the program staff understand and address student and family needs.

| **Strategy** | **Our Plan** |
| --- | --- |
| **Help family members develop their skills and talents.** | |
| Provide information on adult literacy, GED, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in the community. | *Example:* *Partner with the local library to promote and support its weekly ESL classes.* |
| Conduct a job skills or resume-writing event for parents. | *Example:* *Our computer teacher will present technology classes once a week in March. Vivian will stay to provide child care.* |
| Conduct parenting classes or health and wellness activities. |  |
| **Provide ways to engage family members in fun and educational activities with their children.** | |
| Plan and implement several family events each year. |  |
| Explain the importance of family engagement by sharing research on how it improves youths’ academic and life outcomes. |  |
| Engage families in projects and special events. |  |
| Find innovative and engaging ways to get to know your program families. |  |
| Bring program youths into designing and providing different engagement opportunities. |  |

| **Strategy** | **Our Plan** |
| --- | --- |
| **Invite family members to participate in running the out-of-school time program.** | |
| Invite parents to become members of the advisory committee. |  |
| Create a family handbook that clearly welcomes families and offers them ways to get involved. |  |
| Work with families to include their input when creating culturally relevant program materials. |  |
| **Connect families with schools and with community resources.** | |
| Set up a “hub” at the program site where families can share ideas and resources, network, seek support, and problem solve with other families or staff. Partner with groups or organizations as appropriate. |  |
| Go off-site. Visit families at places of worship, popular meeting spots, and their homes. |  |
| Complete and distribute the “Family Health and Wellness Resources” tool. |  |
| Other: |  |

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