

## Outline

### Description

This module will help you work with families in ways that empower them to partner fully with your program and become skilled, effective first educators of their children. It begins with an overview of the essential components of family-centered early childhood programming. You'll explore the director's role in planning and implementing family involvement programs, learn specific strategies for welcoming and working with diverse families, and consider new approaches to nurture open, two-way communication. Finally, you'll be introduced to tools for evaluating the effectiveness of your family involvement efforts.

### Objectives

After completing Creating Partnerships with Families, you will be able to:

- Describe the rationale and benefits of family-centered programming
- Identify the values, principles, and defining characteristics of family-centered programming
- Design and implement family welcoming strategies
- Implement shared decision making and effective communication strategies with families
- Implement family-centered practices that meet the needs of diverse families
- Evaluate the effectiveness of family-centered programming

### Content

#### I. Introduction

- A. Importance of the topic
- B. Module goals and objectives
- C. Overview of content

#### II. Family-Centered Programs

- A. A rationale for focusing on the family
- B. The benefits of family-centered programming
- C. Values, principles, and practices of family-centered programs

#### III. Nurturing and Sustaining Partnerships

- A. Welcoming families
- B. Initiating and maintaining open, two-way communication
- C. Supporting teachers in nurturing family partnerships
- D. Ethics and parent partnerships

#### IV. Planning, Implementing, and Evaluating Family-Centered Programs

- A. Family-centered programming
- B. Resourcing family-centered programming
- C. Evaluating program effectiveness

#### V. A Final Word