

Fun Family Activity Cards Toolkit

*Tips on how to use the cards to encourage families
in supporting their child's learning and development*



**Fun Family Activity Cards Tip:
Communication Logs and Daily Notes Home**

Meaningful two way communication between parents and the professionals who work with their child is important for the child's development and a key component in a high quality early learning program.

You can use the FFA Cards to enhance your communication with parents! When sending information or notes home on a child's learning, development and general day send home a card to support these school to home connections. The cards will enhance your communication with parents and offer concrete examples to build on. Select a card that emphasizes the area of development you are discussing.

Access the cards as well at www.rields.com or by scanning the code at right.



**Fun Family Activity Cards Tip:
Transition Times**

The FFA Cards can be very helpful in supporting families through times of transition. For example, when moving into a new child care setting or moving to a Pre-K or kindergarten classroom.

Print the cards and give to the family in a binder or print a few selected cards on cardstock. Personalize with a note or other additional resources.

Access the cards as well at www.rields.com or by scanning the code at right.



**Fun Family Activity Cards Tip:
New Baby Welcome Bag**

Use the FFA Cards to welcome home a new baby by including them in baby shower gifts or welcome home packages from the hospital. Print the cards and put in a binder or select a few to print on cardstock.

Attach a note that explains how the cards can be used to support their child's growth and development.

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**Fun Family Activity Cards Tip:
Supporting Curriculum Implementation**

As you develop the curriculum for your program, use the FFA Cards to support the home school connection. Send home cards that connect to what is happening in the classroom or in your family child care home.

Share with families how supporting their child's learning at home supports this home to school connection. Ask families to share how the activity went and for any information which can further inform your curriculum and support their child.

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Fun Family Activity Cards Tip: Literacy and Play Group Events

When holding group events such as playgroups or reading hours, use the FFA Cards with families in attendance. Pick one card that corresponds with the event to either pull an activity from, or to share as a resource with families.

Have a discussion with families, using the first card, to discuss how your event and activities support children's learning and development. Reflect on what went well, what was challenging, or any questions that remain.

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Fun Family Activity Cards Tip: Home Visiting

As you visit with families, you learn about and help them set goals for their children. Review the cards to identify those which support those goals. When on the visit, leave cards with the family as an additional resource.

The FFA Cards should be used as an additional resource to support and augment your existing family visiting curriculum.

Access the cards as well at www.rields.com or by scanning the code at right.



Fun Family Activity Cards Tip: Early Childhood Screenings

If you have a concern about a child who struggles in a particular area, in addition to seeking assistance for further evaluation, you can use the cards to support the development of a particular area of learning and development.

The cards can offer fun ways for parents to support the skill development of their children.

You can use specific cards or print out one entire domain that might be helpful for that child or for that age.

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Fun Family Activity Cards Tip: Special Family Events

Family events at your early learning program can be built on or enhanced by the FFA Cards. Select a domain of learning. Plan and set up activities related to that domain. Some examples based on the domains might be "Let's Move!", Fun with Math, Fun with Science, or Creativity Night, among others.

The related cards become the handouts for your event and to continue the learning and fun at home.

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**Fun Family Activity Cards Tip:
Using the FFA Cards with a Child who has an IEP**

When meeting with parents, select FFA Cards to support the child's IEP goals. Pick the domain, component, or learning goal that complements the annual goals in the IEP and select cards that will help parents support their child's learning and development in those areas.

The Reflection section of the cards is an opportunity to collect feedback from parents that can be helpful at other touchpoints.

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**Fun Family Activity Cards Tip:
Supporting Specific Learning Domains,
Component or Learning Goals**

All children display strengths and weaknesses however; if concerns persist, in addition to contacting the local school department for a developmental screening or further evaluation, the FFA Cards can be used to support development in a particular area of learning and development.

The cards can offer fun ways for parents to support the skill development of their children. You can use specific cards or print out one entire domain.

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**Fun Family Activity Cards Tip:
Using the Cards While On the Go**

The FFA Cards can be easily accessed from a mobile device when families are on the bus, waiting in line or for an appointment, or on vacation.

By scanning the QR Code with a mobile device reader or by visiting the website families have the cards at their fingertips. Engaging children in play and learning during everyday moments matters! Learning happens everywhere, all the time and the cards can offer great inspiration at the tip of your fingers.

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**Fun Family Activity Cards Tip:
Staff Orientation/New Hire Packet**

The FFA Cards set should be a component of your new staff orientation for early childhood professionals and should be part of a new hire packet.

Accompany the cards with an explanation of your program's family engagement goals, how these are a component, and how the FFA Cards can be used as part of your family engagement planning and discussions.

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Fun Family Activity Cards Tip:

Using the Fun Family Activity Cards with Families in Crisis

Families may experience a multitude of stressful events due to incarceration, homelessness, involvement with family court, or reunification. The FFA Cards offer suggestions for families with young children experiencing these types of crises.

What you can do is identify cards in the set that are appropriate for the family and do not require collecting a lot of materials. The cards allow the family to engage together in a positive way regardless of whether in a meeting room, waiting room or family shelter. When possible, assist the family in trying the activity together.

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Fun Family Activity Cards Tip:

Enrollment Events/ Open House

Events that bring families together for enrollment activities or open house events are perfect venues for the distribution of the FFA Cards.

Specific cards can be selected by theme, domain of learning, or by age, and made available to families, for example, during kindergarten registration. Encourage families to try the activities at home, and use the back of the card to record experiences and questions to share with the early childhood program.

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Fun Family Activity Cards Tip:

While Families are Waiting

There will always be times when families have to wait, for example at a doctor's appointment, at a restaurant, at the laundromat, at the child support office, or at the DMV. Waiting for appointments can be challenging with young children and the FFA Cards can make waiting easier!

Display the cards in a rack or table, so parents can select cards to read and take home individual cards. Or, print several copies of the entire set, punch holes and insert into three ring binders for parents to review while waiting.

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Fun Family Activity Cards Tip:

Supporting Family Conversations in Two Languages

Many of the FFA Cards offer opportunities to help families share learning experiences with their child in their native language. Example: Card #12 My Family and Friends. This card gives instruction for helping the family create a photo book template. The family is then encouraged to include and talk about photos of people who are important in their lives.

This card can be used for families and children to engage in conversations in their primary language, and when appropriate, their new language. When learning a new language it is often easiest to use these skills related to people and things more personal to you.

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