

# Getting to Know Families

- **Getting to know each child's family is crucial in building a positive partnership.**
- **Every family is unique.**



- **Varying the modes of communication you use with families is also important.**
- **We must consider the various family structures that exist within our diverse society.**



# Child's Perspective



- A child's family is the single most important thing to them, particularly younger children.
- Therefore, we must remember to be open-minded as to what a "family" means.

# Overcoming Differences

- **Some families may be shy and uneasy.**
- **Some families, however, may feel comfortable in a child education and care environment.**
- **Regardless, each and every family should be valued to make them feel welcomed and safe.**



# **Overcoming Differences cont**

- **The life experiences of families also vary.**
- **This may include their level of education, health, family structure, socio-economic status, living arrangements, employment or unemployment, substance abuse etc.**

- **We must remember to be sensitive towards these issues, and act accordingly. Educators should also respect each family's privacy.**



- **We must learn to appreciate and value social and cultural diversity.**
- **This may include a family's beliefs, values, traditions and practices.**
- **More broadly, this may include race, gender, ethnicity and sexuality.**





# Stereotypes

- Families have many similarities.
- They also have many differences.
- Therefore, it is important not to stereotype.
- Labeling or generalising families only perpetuates stereotypes.



# **Learning About Families - Initial Contact**

- **Simple details count, and families will appreciate your efforts.**
- **Learn how to pronounce the child's name and the family's last name(s).**
- **Explain how the information collected will be used throughout the curriculum.**

- **Ask open-ended questions about the child and the family.**
- **For example, “Does your child have a favourite game or toy?”**
- **“What are the most important things that you would like your child to learn while at the Service?”**



# **Social and Cultural Considerations**

- **It's important to engage with families and their social and cultural identity.**
- **Where appropriate, ask families open-ended questions.**

# Social and Cultural Considerations

- Ask families if they have any special talents or interests and if they would like to share them with the Service.
- For example, “Would you like to share any traditions, practices, songs, games or dances that are important to your family and your child?”



# **Encouraging Families**

- **It is important to encourage families to be involved at the Service.**
- **This ranges from feedback and attending parent/educator evenings and meetings.**



**Some families, however, will choose not to be involved. While they should be encouraged, their decisions should be respected.**

**The End.**