

# Reading Assignment

## *Maintaining Partnerships With Families*



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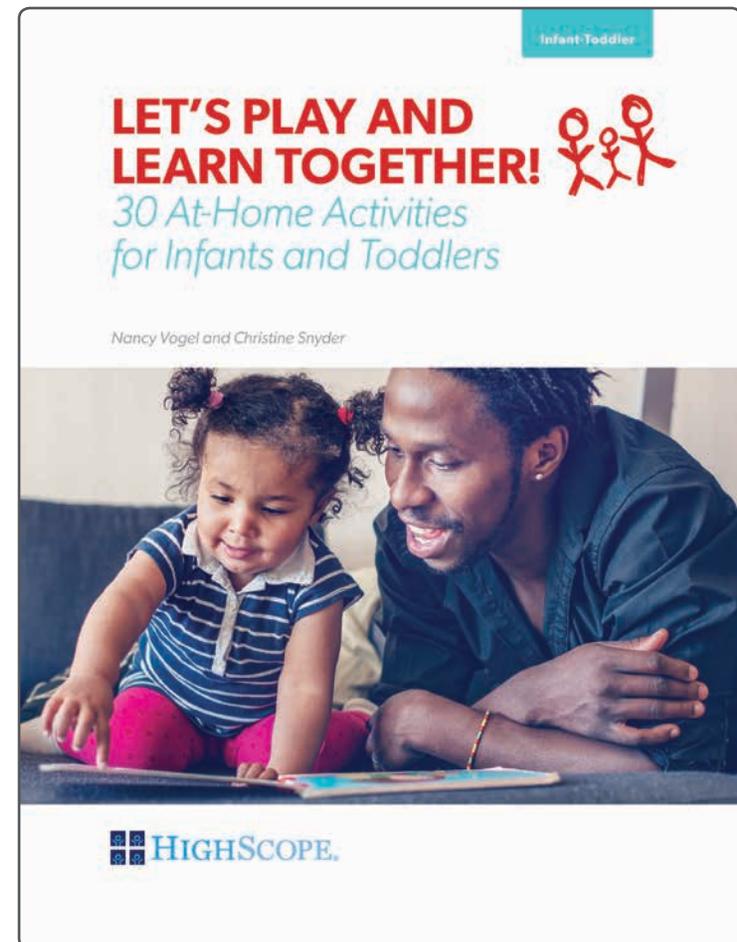
- **Share stories and work samples.** During your interactions with parents at dropoff and pickup times, remember to share with them stories about their child's day. Consider taking photographs of their child engaged in activities, and send the photos home along with any art work their child has created. Photographs can really help parents visualize what their toddler was doing during the day and the kinds of materials that are available in your setting.
- **Exchange school and home interests and activities.** Remember to tell parents about their child's favorite activities at school as well as asking them what their children enjoy doing at home. Because infants and toddlers grow quickly, it will be important and relevant to exchange information on a regular basis.
- **Post daily plans for parents.** Parents will enjoy seeing what you have planned for each day and this will help them to understand the kinds of activities their child engages in throughout the day. Include the KDIs and/or COR items relevant to these activities so that parents can understand and appreciate what their children are learning through play. In addition, this will help guide your conversations with them about activities that occurred through the day and how their children responded.
- **Plan events for classroom participation.** In addition to the activities planned in the first few weeks, remember to continue planning events that allow parents to join in their child's day, learn about the curriculum, or network with other parents. You might consider offering parent workshops, potlucks, or inviting parents to join the class for a mealtime.

## Maintaining Partnerships with Families (continued)

- **Update the parent lending library.** This might mean rotating books, resources, or materials available for parents to check out and use at home or adding literature about current trends or issues in parenting. Keeping this library fresh and connected to parents' interests will help them access information that is relevant to them and meet their child's needs at home. (*Let's Play and Learn Together!* is an example of a HighScope resource for infant-toddler families.)

Snyder, C. M. (2016a). Maintaining partnerships with families. In J. Tangorra (Ed.), *Lesson plans for a strong start: The first 30 days for infants* (pp. 257–258). Ypsilanti, MI: HighScope Press.

Snyder, C. M. (2016b). Maintaining partnerships with families. In J. Tangorra, & M. Weiner (Eds.), *Lesson plans for a strong start: The first 30 days for toddlers* (pp. 300–301). Ypsilanti, MI: HighScope Press.



Available at [HighScope.org](https://www.highscope.org)