

Family Engagement Story Submission Information

Calling Pennsylvania's Early Childhood Professionals and Families: Submit YOUR Family Engagement Story by October 23, 2026

Meaningful family engagement happens every day, and the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) wants to hear your story! Family engagement refers to the ongoing partnership between families and professionals, in which families' strengths, knowledge, experiences, and voices are valued to support their children and families and to strengthen programs, communities, and the broader early childhood system.

In celebration of November's National Family Engagement Month, OCDEL invites families, early childhood professionals, and partners to share a brief story about meaningful family engagement.

Stories can be submitted by a family, by a **professional or provider, or jointly by a family and a professional**. OCDEL welcomes stories that highlight partnerships happening in many different places and ways, including:

- In the home, as families and professionals work together to support children and family goals
- In early childhood programs and services, where families and professionals partner in planning, learning, and decision-making
- In communities and systems, where family voices and leadership help shape programs, services, policies, and practices
- Through family engagement and leadership initiatives, such as workshops, trainings, Parent Cafés, advisory groups, peer support opportunities, and other activities that help families build leadership skills, connect with other families, and contribute to positive change in their communities and systems.
- Stories might highlight Family Voice & Leadership, Family-Professional Partnerships, Systems Change & Impact, or Innovation & Success.

Selected stories will be featured throughout November to celebrate families and professionals working together, elevate varied family experiences, and inspire meaningful family engagement and leadership across Pennsylvania.

Share your story in the format that works best for you! Submissions may be:

- A written story or article of up to 300 words, or
- A 3–5-minute video sharing your experience and the impact of the partnership.

Submission deadline is October 23, 2026. For more information and to submit your story, follow link below:

[Share Your Family Engagement Story Survey](#)

For Professionals and providers submitting a story: Please obtain consent before sharing stories on behalf of families. If your submission or any accompanying materials (e.g., photos, videos, flyers, or brochures) include images or identifiable information of a child or family, please ensure you have the appropriate permission to submit and share those materials.

For questions, please contact OCDEL's Family Engagement and Leadership Coordinator, Sadia Batool, at c-sabatool@pa.gov.