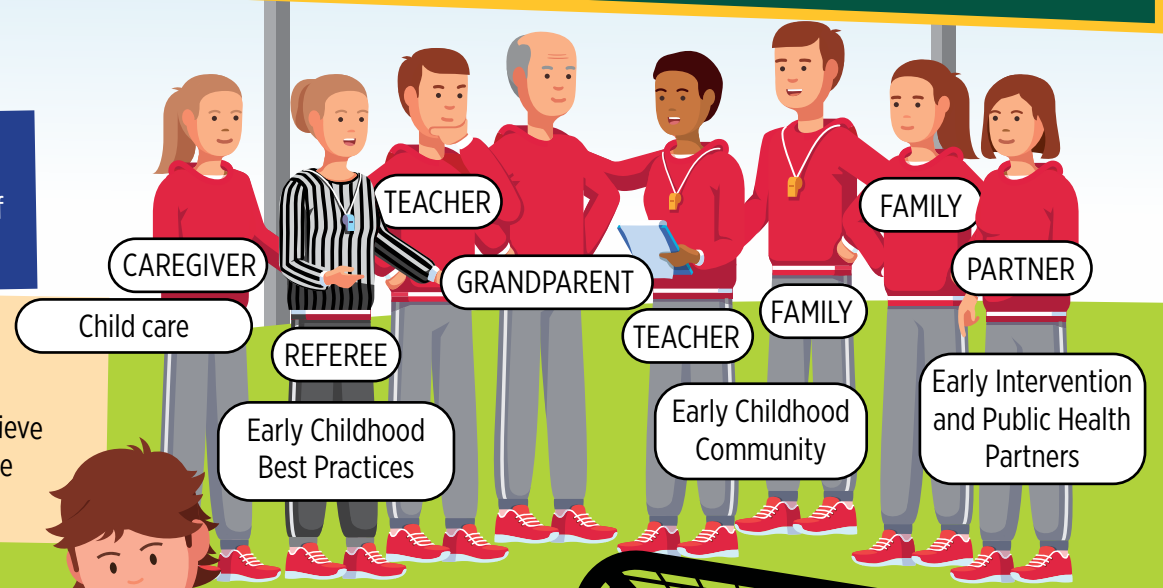


# Opportunities for Family Engagement in Early Childhood

*The most accurate predictor of student achievement in school is family engagement, not income or social status.*



## What is family engagement?

Family engagement is when families, children and program staff work together to build positive relationships with goals in mind.

## What kind of goals?

Many are possible, but the purpose for setting goals is to enhance the child's development. Goals for the child are much easier to achieve when all players (for example, parents, teachers, care providers) are on the same page.

## Why start early?

From birth to age 5, a child's brain develops more than at any other time in life. So, beginning active family engagement practices sooner rather than later can only help your child.

## Game Plan:



1. Start a conversation with a caregiver, early childhood professional or educator.
2. Find a way to communicate that works best for both of you.
3. Make a game plan for your child's development with goals.
4. Work to make progress with your child – read, play, snuggle, learn.
5. Maintain open communication and build positive relationships.

## Find opportunities in North Dakota near you:

- North Dakota Department of Public Instruction  
— [www.nd.gov/dpi/parentscommunity/parents/family-engagement](http://www.nd.gov/dpi/parentscommunity/parents/family-engagement)
- Link for further information:  
— [www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/kids-family/family-engagement-in-early-childhood-settings-in-north-dakota](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/kids-family/family-engagement-in-early-childhood-settings-in-north-dakota)

## Options to Score With Family Engagement

### Community-based Options

- Children's drama or theater groups
- City parks and recreation programs
- Faith-linked parent groups (Mothers of Preschoolers, etc.)
- Fitness or recreation centers, programs
- Local art centers, museums, zoos
- Informal networks of family, friends
- Music education programs (Music Makers, etc.)
- Preschool programs
- Public library

### Family and Community Support Organizations

- Counseling centers
- Early Intervention services
- Early Head Start or Head Start programs
- Home visiting programs (public health, etc.)
- Hospital or health-care systems
- Pregnancy and parenthood support services

### Formal Educational Options

- Family-based or center-based child care/preschool
- Early Head Start or Head Start
- Public or private schools (elementary)



# Early learning can change a child's life forever.