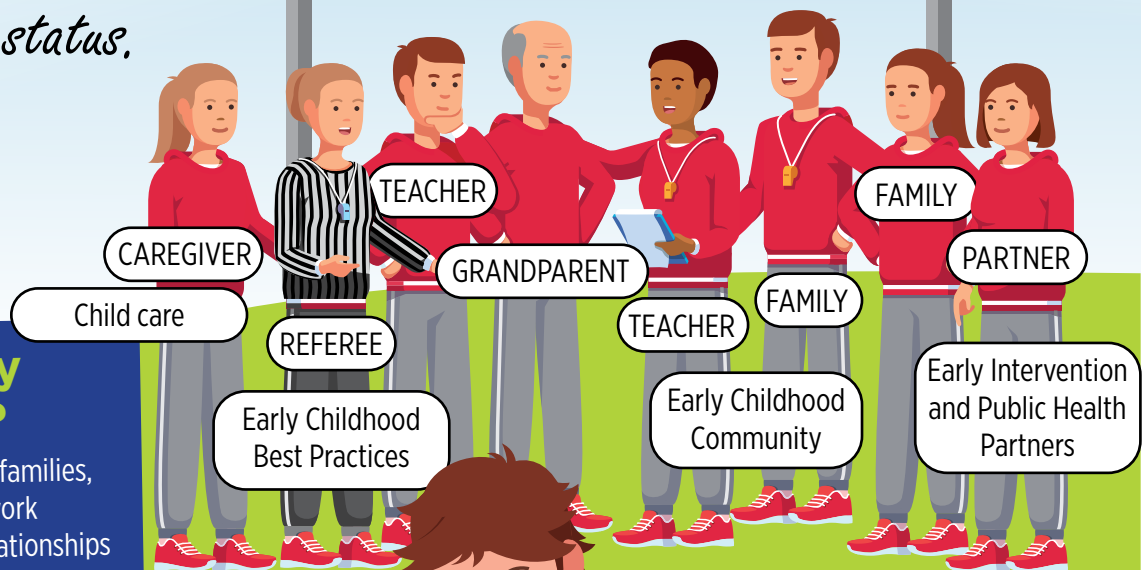


# Opportunities for Family Engagement in Early Childhood

*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.

# 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)

## 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)

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

NDSU | EXTENSION

NDSU Extension does not endorse commercial products or companies even though reference may be made to tradenames, trademarks or service names.

**For more information on this and other topics, see [www.ndsu.edu/extension](http://www.ndsu.edu/extension)**

North Dakota State University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. This work is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact NDSU Extension at 701-231-1865.

200-3-26