



Early Learning and Family Engagement: Meeting Street Academy-Spartanburg Video Reflection Guide

This video shares how Meeting Street Academy-Spartanburg has built an effective early learning program, including strategies for family learning and engagement. For educators interested in applying lessons learned from the video to their district or school context, this accompanying reflection guide offers questions to consider after watching the video, as well as some additional resources.

Elements of Effective Early Learning

"They take plenty of movement breaks. And of course, at that age, they take a nap." – Parent

"We do our morning meeting, our closing circle, we'll do read-alouds as a whole group, but most of the real, you know, deep learning happens when they're playing in centers." – Teacher

"... we provide whatever services that they need, whether it's speech therapy, play therapy, to work on their, their fine motor skills, and to build those, fill those gaps academically so that when they get to kindergarten, they are truly ready to start learning and flourishing." – Principal

- Educators and parents in this profile video mention several elements that make their early learning program effective, with a particular emphasis on meeting the needs of young learners.
 - o Which parts of their program resonate most with you?
 - o What elements are already in place in your school or district community?
 - o What might you be interested in trying or expanding?

Family Engagement Activities

"...we do home visits. So, our three- and four-K teachers, they go out and they do home visits for every single family." – Assistant Principal

"a lot of that is programming for parents through volunteers and also through classes on nutrition, financial planning, and getting access to good health care for the family." – School Co-Founder

"We actually take those trainings home. And then when we come back the next month, we let them know, did they work?" – Parent

- What family engagement and learning activities have you found to be most successful in your school or district? What aspects have been challenging? What partnerships, supports, or learning opportunities might you be interested in identifying to expand your connections with families?

Additional Resources

[Meeting Street Academy-Spartanburg](#) - Read Meeting Street Academy-Spartanburg's National Blue Ribbon Schools program application to learn more about how they approach instruction and support for students in all areas.

National Blue Ribbon Schools: [Family Engagement](#) & [Pre-K Practices](#) - Learn more about effective practices related to family engagement and Pre-K from other National Blue Ribbon schools.