



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

>>> DECEMBER 2017

An effective family engagement system builds connections between home and school and is an essential component to meeting the needs of each child in your program.

TIP#1 CULTURE & TRADITION



Celebrating every family. How do you include every family? How do you gain information regarding individual family home practices and find a common thread? Ask families how they celebrate the holidays. This could possibly be done through a survey. The National Association for the Education of Young Children is a valuable resource and provides tips on creating a [family survey](#). Take the results and pull out what is common. Is it cooking? Is it gift giving? This will help you plan a genuine celebration which honors all of your families.



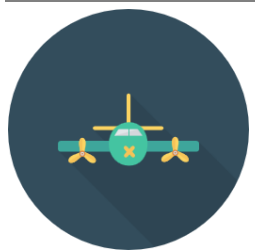
TIP#2 COMMUNICATION

Make sure if your program is closed for the holidays you communicate the days you are closed clearly to the parents. This allows them enough time to have a back-up plan for those days or make plans to take off. Let parents know what events are occurring at the center so they have ample time to plan to be involved. How are you going to communicate the events to the families?

TIP#3 GIVING BACK



How will your program give back this holiday season? Partner with an organization to give back. Decorate a tree with hats, mittens, scarves, gloves to donate to families in need. Your program may want to look at adopting a family for the holidays. Offer information to your families and teachers about how to share with young children ways they can give back. This [website](#) includes a list of ideas on how to instill the spirit of giving in children.



TIP#4 WRIGHT BROTHERS DAY: DECEMBER 17TH

Celebrate Dayton heritage with families. Share information with families about the [Air Force Museum's](#) hours and free admission. There are plenty of options for families to discover Dayton heritage. Visit this [website](#) to see a list of places to visit with families which include Carillon Park, the Dayton Art Institute and the Boonshoft Museum.

TIP#5 BAKED COOKIE DAY: DECEMBER 18TH



This is a way you can incorporate baking with children in the classroom or encourage families to provide baked cookies to donate. There are ways to take the idea of giving back and combine it with baked cookie day. Go [here](#) to learn how you can donate cookies to troops serving overseas.