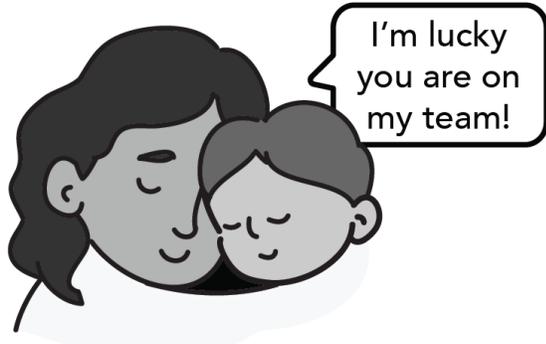




Partnering with Other Adults in Your Child's Life



Figuring It Out Together

Here are some ideas to keep in mind as you partner with family members, teachers, babysitters, your child's healthcare provider, and your family's home visitor.

You Know Different Things About Your Child

When you share what you know, you each get a more complete and helpful picture of your child.



You know your child like no other.

You know details about your child because you live with and love him. For example, you know your child's routines, likes and dislikes, and his health concerns. You know what you are feeding your baby these days, how you help him take a nap, what upsets him, how you help him calm down, what makes him smile or laugh, or whether he has allergies.



Your child's other adults have other information that you need to support your child as he moves out into the world. Here are some examples:

- *Grandparents and other relatives* know stories about your family. They likely have ideas about parenting – and may be very willing to share them with you. These ideas and suggestions may or may not fit how you have decided to raise your child.
- *A teacher* knows about child development and how to create a learning space and plan for and work with children in a group and as individuals.
- *A healthcare provider* knows about the health and development of young children.
- *Your family's home visitor* knows about families and how to support parents who are raising their children when life is bumpy and smooth. Home visitors also know about community resources you may find helpful.
- *Babysitters* vary widely in what they know and how they respond to children. When hiring a babysitter, ask other parents about her dependability and how she interacts with children - especially in the face of crying or other challenging behaviors. Consider hiring her for a few hours of a *test run* when you are nearby and able to check in regularly to see how things are going.



Provide Information to Keep your Child Safe and Healthy When Others Care for Her

Everyone caring for your child needs basic information. Fill out and post the *Caring for My Child Checklist* that comes with these Family pages. You can also make a second copy to give to your child's program if she is in child care. This way everyone will have the following information:



How to reach you.



Health issues, such as allergies and medications your child may be taking.



Safety issues, such as safety routines you follow and instructions for opening the child lock on the toilet (which can be challenging!).



Your child's daily routines for sleeping, eating, changing or toileting, bathing and dressing.



SAFETY NOTE: If your child is an infant under 6 months, remind everyone who cares for him about Back to Sleep and to keep bumpers, blankets, and toys out of the crib to prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).



SAFETY NOTE: Phone numbers for your child's healthcare provider and Poison Control should be highlighted and easy to find.