**MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS, E.O.C.**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

1302.50

**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

**POLICY**:

The program integrates parent and family engagement strategies into all systems and program services to support family well-being and promote children’s learning and development.

**PROCEDURE:**

**1.0 Family Engagement**

1.1 The program recognizes parents as their children’s primary teachers and nurturers and implements intentional strategies to engage parents in their children’s learning and development and supports parent-child relationships, including specific strategies for father engagement.

1.2 The program develops relationships with parents and structures services to encourage trust and respectful, ongoing two-way communication between staff and parents to create welcoming program environments that incorporate the unique cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds of families in the program and community.

1.3 The program collaborates with families in a family partnership process that identifies needs, interests, strengths, goals, and services and resources that support family well-being, including family safety, health, and economic stability.

1.4 The program provides parents with opportunities to participate in the program as employees or volunteers.

1.5 The program conducts family engagement services in the family’s preferred language, or through an interpreter, to the extent possible, and ensures families have the opportunity to share personal information in an environment in which they feel safe.

1.6 The program implements procedures for Teachers, Home Visitors, and Family Service Advocate to share information with each other, as appropriate and consistent with the requirements in parts 1303.20 through 1303.24; Subpart C; FERPA; or IDEA, to ensure coordinated family engagement strategies with children and families in the classroom, home, and community.

1.7 The program may develop innovative two-generation approaches that address prevalent needs of families across the program that may leverage community partnerships or other funding sources.