**Funds of Knowledge: Family Assets to Enrich Classrooms**

**Directions**

Home is a place of learning for children. When children come to school they bring knowledge with them that they have learned from family and friends. Teachers can learn from families and use their understanding of families’ funds of knowledge to create a welcoming, relevant learning environment. Teachers can build connections between learning and literacy at school and the funds of knowledge of the homes of students.

1. Tell families that you would like to learn about their family to get to know them and to know more about their child. This will help you teach their child this year. *Note: Be aware that this activity may be threatening for some families, or may be difficult to complete. Sensitively and respectfully let families know it is their choice whether or not they share information with you. You may also offer to give families additional time, or to tell you their answers rather than writing them.*
2. Ask families to think about their family and the things their family does and the things that are important to them. Ask them to jot down (or tell you) things about their family that they are comfortable sharing in each of the areas listed. Let them know they can skip any area or add a new one.
3. Families should start with their own family on the front side of the handout. On the back side they can add information about friends and other family members if they would like to.
4. Optional: If you do this activity with several families at the same time, you can ask the families to talk with each other about what they wrote.
5. After you read all of the information shared by families, consider:
   1. What are similarities and differences amongst the funds of knowledge of your students’ families this year?
   2. What are some ways you might connect your literacy instruction during the school day with the funds of knowledge the children in your classroom bring to school?

This document was adapted from *Exploring Cultural Concepts*, retrieved on May 12, 2016 from <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc>

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| **IMMEDIATE FAMILY**  **(Knowledge and resources within your immediate family)** | |
| **Home Language** | E.g., English, Spanish |
| **Family Cultural Traditions** | E.g., holiday celebrations, foods, arts and crafts |
| **Family Outings and Travel** | E.g., shopping, beach, library, picnic |
| **Household Chores** | E.g., gardening, feeding animals, sweeping, dusting, doing dishes |
| **Family Jobs** | E.g., teacher, mechanic, construction, farming |
| **Family Occupations** | E.g., hobbies, interests, caring for family members |
| **Knowledge of Nature and Health** | E.g., recycling, exercising, health |
| **EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS**  **(Knowledge and resources in your extended family and network of friends; consider knowledge in any category from above)** | |
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