












## Family Engagement

The VLS Core Content was designed to align across tracks which means a significant portion of each track's content is relevant for all direct care staff. This document identifies unique age-specific content, activities, and resources by lesson and can be used as a guide for review material if a staff member moves to care for a new age-group. For example, direct care staff who move from an infant and toddler to a preschool classroom should consult the Preschool track to be aware of age-specific material that resides in that track. Use this document as a guide and remember to work with your trainer to help identify content areas in the VLS where you may need extra review and support to be knowledgeable about best practices for all children in your care.

### LESSON 1

<b>Infants &amp; Toddlers</b> Families: An Introduction	<b>Preschool</b> Families: An Introduction	<b>School Age</b> Families: An Introduction
<div style="text-align: center;">   <b>SEE</b> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Video:</b> <i>Respecting and Understanding Children's Families</i></li> </ol> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>DO</b> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Bulleted List:</b> <i>Family-Centered Practice Guidelines</i></li> <li><b>Video:</b> <i>Family-Centered Practice</i></li> </ol> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>EXPLORE</b> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Video:</b> <i>Reflecting On My Own Experiences</i></li> <li><b>Attachment:</b> <i>Things to Consider</i></li> </ol>	<div style="text-align: center;">   <b>KNOW</b> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Section:</b> <i>Honoring Diversity in Families</i></li> </ol> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>SEE</b> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Video:</b> <i>Appreciating Children's Families</i></li> <li><b>Video:</b> <i>Embracing Family Diversity in Preschool: Teacher Voices</i></li> </ol> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>DO</b> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Bulleted List:</b> <i>Family-Centered Practice Guidelines</i></li> <li><i>Family-Centered Practice</i></li> <li><b>Video:</b> <i>Including Children's Families</i></li> </ol> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>EXPLORE</b> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Attachment:</b> <i>Things to Consider</i></li> </ol>	<div style="text-align: center;">   <b>KNOW</b> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Section:</b> <i>Honoring Diversity in Families</i></li> </ol> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>SEE</b> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Video:</b> <i>Family-Centered Practice: An Introduction</i></li> <li><b>Video:</b> <i>Honoring All Families</i></li> <li><b>Video:</b> <i>Celebrating Culture: Unique School-Age Abilities</i></li> </ol> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>DO</b> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Bulleted List:</b> <i>Family-Centered Practice Guidelines</i></li> <li><i>Family-Centered Practice</i></li> </ol> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>EXPLORE</b> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Attachment:</b> <i>Reflecting on Families</i></li> </ol>

## LESSON 2

### Infants & Toddlers

Promoting Family Engagement



1. **Section:** *Importance of Family Engagement*
2. **Section:** *Relationships With Families*
3. **Section:** *Helping Families Feel Welcome*
4. **Section:** *Encouraging Families to Be Involved*



5. **Video:** *Promoting Family Engagement in Your Program*
6. **Video:** *Learning About Families*



7. **Video:** *Ways to Welcome and Involve Families*
8. **Attachment:** *Ways to Support Family Engagement*



9. **Attachment:** *Getting to Know and Building Relationships With Families*

### Preschool

Promoting Family Engagement



1. **Section:** *Importance of Family Engagement*
2. **Section:** *Including Families in Preschool*
3. **Section:** *Helping Families Feel Welcome: Entering Preschool*
4. **Section:** *Encouraging Families to Be Involved*



5. **Video:** *Encouraging Family Participation in your Classroom*



6. **Video:** *Welcoming Families in your Classroom and Program*
7. **Attachment:** *Strategies to Promote Family Involvement in your Classroom*



8. **Attachment:** *Welcoming Families to Your Classroom and Program*
9. **Attachment:** *Fun Ways to Involve Families in their Child's Learning*
10. **Attachment:** *Acknowledging Families in your Classroom*

### School Age

Promoting Family Engagement



1. **Section:** *Importance of Family Engagement*
2. **Section:** *Helping Families Feel Welcome*
3. **Section:** *Encouraging Families to Be Involved*
4. **Section:** *Strategies to Promote Family Involvement*



5. **Video:** *The Importance of Family Partnerships*
6. **Video:** *Parent Advisory Boards*
7. **Video:** *Family Involvement*



8. **Attachment:** *Strategies to Promote Family Involvement in your Classroom*



9. **Attachment:** *Apply: Planning Activity*

## LESSON 3

### Infants & Toddlers

Promoting Family Engagement:  
Communicating With Families



1. **Section:** *Importance of Communicating with Families*
2. **Section:** *Ways of Communicating With Families*
3. **Section:** *Having Difficult Conversations with Families*
4. **Section:** *Benefits for Infants and Toddlers*



5. **Video:** *Having Difficult Conversations with Families*



6. **Bulleted List:** *Ways to communicate with families and share information*
7. **Video:** *Ways to Communicate with Families*
8. **Attachment:** *Family Conferences*



9. **Attachment:** *Things I Would Like to Know*



10. **Attachment:** *Conversation Starters*

### Preschool

Promoting Family Engagement:  
Communicating With Families



1. **Section:** *Importance of Communicating with Families*
2. **Section:** *Ways of Communicating With Families*
3. **Section:** *Having Difficult Conversations with Families*
4. **Section:** *Collecting Family and Child Information*
5. **Section:** *Sharing Information With Families*



6. **Video:** *Helping Families Understand their Child's Development*



7. **Bulleted List:** *Ways to communicate with families and share information*



8. **Attachment:** *Thinking about Communication*



9. **Video:** *Family-Teacher Conferences*
10. **Attachment:** *Jargon Busting*
11. **Attachment:** *Effective Communication Resources*

### School Age

Promoting Family Engagement:  
Communicating With Families



1. **Section:** *Importance of Communicating with Families*
2. **Section:** *Ways of Communicating With Families*
3. **Section:** *Informal Communication Methods*
4. **Section:** *Formal Communication Methods*
5. **Section:** *Finding the "Right" Time to Communicate with Families*
6. **Section:** *Creative Communication Methods*



7. **Video:** *Sharing Program Information*
8. **Video:** *Communication of Care*
9. **Video:** *Creative Communication*



10. **Bulleted List:** *Ways to communicate with families and share information*



11. **Attachment:** *Explore: Communication Activity*



12. **Attachment:** *Creative Communication Methods: Brainstorming*

## LESSON 4

Infants & Toddlers	Preschool	School Age
Working With Families of Children With Special Needs	Working With Families of Children With Special Needs	Working With Families of Children With Special Needs
<p><b>*Consult Entire Lesson:</b></p> <p>If you are moving to this track and you have already covered this course in another VLS track, you should still consult this lesson in its entirety because it contains significant, unique content specific to infants and toddlers.</p>	<p><b>*Consult Entire Lesson:</b></p> <p>If you are moving to this track and you have already covered this course in another VLS track, you should still consult this lesson in its entirety because it contains significant, unique content specific to preschool children.</p>	<p><b>*Consult Entire Lesson:</b></p> <p>If you are moving to this track and you have already covered this course in another VLS track, you should still consult this lesson in its entirety because it contains significant, unique content specific to school-age children.</p>

## LESSON 5

Infants & Toddlers	Preschool	School Age
Strengthening and Supporting Military Families and Families Facing Challenges	Strengthening and Supporting Military Families and Families Facing Challenges	Strengthening and Supporting Military Families and Families Facing Challenges
<p><b>*Consult Entire Lesson:</b></p> <p>If you are moving to this track and you have already covered this course in another VLS track, you should still consult this lesson in its entirety because it contains significant, unique content specific to infants and toddlers.</p>	<p><b>*Consult Entire Lesson:</b></p> <p>If you are moving to this track and you have already covered this course in another VLS track, you should still consult this lesson in its entirety because it contains significant, unique content specific to preschool children.</p>	<p><b>*Consult Entire Lesson:</b></p> <p>If you are moving to this track and you have already covered this course in another VLS track, you should still consult this lesson in its entirety because it contains significant, unique content specific to school-age children.</p>