Things to Consider

To support young children as best as possible, we must understand the families in which they grow and develop. Think about a preschool child you care for and his or her family. Take time to read and answer each question based on the preschooler and family you are thinking about.

**What is the makeup of this family? Who is part of this family system? What things might impact this family system and the ways they work together?**

**What types of information does this family often share with you? What examples do they provide about their preschooler? What is most important to this family?**
What affects relationships within this family? What do their interactions look like?

What changes do you see this family going through? What are some things to think about when you consider some of these possible changes?
What are possible challenges this family may encounter? How can you accommodate these challenges to create learning opportunities for the child?

Now think about your interactions with this child and the family. What assumptions do you think the family has made about your role? For example, do they believe it is your role to promote learning? What assumptions do you have about the family’s role? For example, do you believe families are responsible for social and emotional growth? These beliefs and assumptions may affect the ways in which you relate and work with families of children in your program. There are no right or wrong responses, but take some time to think clearly about the roles you assume are played by yourself and families. Are these assumptions accurate?

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<th>What are your assumptions or beliefs about families?</th>
<th>What do you think the family believes is your role?</th>
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