Working with Families

Read the following scenario and brainstorm how you would respond. Then, share and discuss your responses with a trainer, coach, or family child care administrator. When you are finished, compare your answers to the suggested response.

**Millie**

Millie is a 4-year-old in your program. Over the past week, you have noticed that Millie cries and seems anxious as she walks down the sidewalk with her dad to your home. Millie’s dad lingers at first and then lets you know that he is frustrated with Millie’s behavior. Millie’s mom has started calling several times during the day to see how Millie is doing. How do you respond?

*You might make yourself available to meet Millie at the door as she is coming up the sidewalk. You can smile at Millie, bend down to her level, and greet her warmly. You might offer your hand so that you and Millie can walk into your house together. Once inside your family child care program you can engage Millie in helping you with a particular job that she enjoys. You make some anecdotal notes about how this routine works for Millie over the next week. You also can ask Millie’s parents about things they do at home to deal with separation anxiety. Talk about routines or rituals Millie’s parents can create for drop-off time. Offer to call or text Millie’s mom mid-day to let her know how these routines are working.*