

**Family-Centered
Principles And Practices**
(Peterson, 2001)

Directions: Select a school you know well – a school you attended, where your children go, or where you teach. Consider the family-centered services in that school. Place a check in the box and provide examples in the box below.

Family-Centered . . .	
Principles	Practices
<input type="checkbox"/> Engage families as partners. <input type="checkbox"/> Affirm and build on family strengths. <input type="checkbox"/> Honor cultural diversity. <input type="checkbox"/> Treat families with respect and dignity. <input type="checkbox"/> Promote family choices	<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome and care about children with special needs. <input type="checkbox"/> Communicate effectively with families <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome families to the school as partner – involvement in the classroom, parent centers, collaborative program development. <input type="checkbox"/> Link school, home, and community learning – children and parents writing together and sharing in the classroom; family learning night; connecting learning to family activities (grocery lists, etc.). <input type="checkbox"/> Involve families in governance of the school through committees, school improvement teams, and more. <input type="checkbox"/> Help build supports for families – circles of support, wrap-around services, mentors. <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in community improvement activities like cleaning up a brook or vacant lot, sponsoring community events, helping to plan a neighborhood park.

Examples