
FAMILY SUPPORT PRINCIPLES

The Family Resource Coalition of America has developed a definition of best practices in family support programs published as *Guidelines for Family Support Practice*⁶. The *Guidelines* articulate quality practices in the field of family support. Chart 4 is a summary of this widely accepted

framework describing Family Support Practices that serve as the foundation of a quality family resource center.

Chart 4

PRINCIPLES OF FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE

- 1) Staff and families work together in relationships based on equality and respect.
- 2) Staff enhances families' capacity to support the growth and development of all family members – adults, youth, and children.
- 3) Families are resources to their own members, to other families, to programs, and to communities.
- 4) Programs affirm and strengthen families' cultural, racial, and linguistic identities and enhance their ability to function in a multicultural society.
- 5) Programs are embedded in their communities and contribute to the community-building process.
- 6) Programs advocate with families for services and systems that are fair, responsive, and accountable to the families served.
- 7) Practitioners work with families to mobilize formal and informal resources to support family development.
- 8) Programs are flexible and continually responsive to emerging family and community issues.
- 9) Principles of family support are modeled in all program activities, including planning, governance, and administration.