



FACE Technical Assistance Brief

FACE Family Circles

What information will I find in this brief?

The purpose of this TA Brief is to assist FACE home-based programs with understanding the goals of FACE Family Circles, the necessary components of FACE Family Circles and requirements.

What are the goals of FACE Family Circles?

FACE Family Circles (Group Connections) are designed so that families build social connections with each other, engage in parent-child interaction, and increase their knowledge of ways to support children's development. FACE Family Circles can also serve as a great recruitment opportunity for FACE programs by inviting potential families to offer them the opportunity to learn about your FACE Program, meet other families, and reduce any hesitation the family may have about participating in home visits.

FACE Family Circles provide a unique and very positive way to facilitate information of child development and educate parents on a variety of topics. FACE Family Circles support parents in having appropriate expectations for their child's developmental age. Parents have the opportunity to practice their learning through activities with their child so they become better observers of their child's development status. FACE Family Circles also provide a safe space for parents to build relationships with other parents where they can learn from one another, share common experiences, and develop a support network.

How often do FACE Family Circles take place?

FACE Family Circles are offered to families at least once a month. If you are delivering services 10 months out of the program year (August-May), then you will need to conduct 10 FACE Family Circles. For months that are missed, be sure to make up in the next month or when possible.

Who plans and delivers FACE Family Circles?

Parent educators will take the lead in planning a FACE Family Circle for home-based families. If FACE Family Circles are intended and planned for all FACE families including center-based, then center-based staff is involved in supporting the planning and facilitating of the FACE Family Circle.

Where are FACE Family Circles held?

FACE Family Circles can take place at the school or at a local community center. Be sure to choose a venue that provides enough space for families to engage in the activities. Consider space for children and parents to interact.



What components are necessary for FACE Family Circles?

In order to count as a FACE Family Circle, the group connection *must meet all of the following criteria*:

- The FACE Family Circle is planned and promoted in advance.
- The FACE Family Circle is designed to include one or more of the three areas of emphasis: parent-child interaction, development-centered parenting, and family well-being.
- One of these formats (or a combination of them) is used: family activity, ongoing group, presentation, community event, or parent café.
- The FACE Family Circle is staffed by at least one model-certified parent educator or Parents as Teachers supervisor.
- The planning and delivery of the FACE Family Circle is documented.

How do FACE Family Circles align with the Parents as Teachers Essential Requirements?

Essential Requirement #13: Group Connections: Affiliates deliver at least 12 group connections across the program year.

- FACE Programs should hold at least one FACE Family Circle (Group Connection) a month. The FACE Family Circle must be focused on one or more of the three areas of emphasis (parent-child interaction, development-centered parenting, and family well-being). The parent educators must plan and be present at each FACE Family Circle. If the meeting is also offered to center-based families, the entire FACE team is involved in supporting the FACE Family Circle. Records of the planning and delivery of FACE Family Circles must be maintained, using the PAT Group Connection Planning Guide & Record and kept in a FACE Family Circle Binder.

What information should be included in the FACE Family Circle Binder?

The following items should be included in the program's FACE Family Circle Binder for *each* FACE Family Circle:

- *Group Connections Planning Guide and Record* (completed in Penelope, printed and inserted into Binder)
- Flyer used to advertise FACE Family Circle
- *Group Connection Sign-In Sheet*
- Agenda for families
- Parent Handouts shared with families
- *Group Connections Feedback Form* (completed by each family in attendance)
- FACE Family Circle Task Sheet
- Group Connection Observation Tool (completed by the Coordinator)

Optional: Requisitions, copies of notes from team meetings, presentation notes, presenter bio and contact information, photographs, etc.