



REACH...

Respect parent roles and their diversity

Engagement, not just involvement

All families want their children to be successful so **Ask** what they need

Curriculum of the home

Help at home with knowledge and skills

Strategy Name: Celebrate Families

Summary of Strategy: Modeled after the scientifically tested Strengthening Families Program, some of the activities in the sessions are adapted from research-based materials developed by extension faculty in Kansas, Nebraska and New Jersey. The program consists of eight 90-minute group lessons designed for parents/caregivers and their early elementary-age children. Overall objectives of the curriculum are to assist parents/caregivers and children in learning to connect with each other, build skills and positive attitudes, and celebrate family strengths. Evaluation uses a pre- and post-instrument rating 15 family strengths correlated with the 8 lessons. Evaluations consistently show an increase in all 15 strengths.

REACH Link: [Curriculum of the home.](#)

Scientifically Based Research Level: Level 4 – Strong Evidence

Website Links: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/families/celebrate/>

Target Audience of Strategy: Designed for early elementary students and their parents/caregivers (see note below). Appropriate for grandparents raising grandchildren or foster parents. Note: Facilitators must be careful about mixing grades because of the developmental differences of children within these age ranges. A range of two consecutive grades is appropriate for one class.

Training and Follow-up Support for Implementation: Potential partners include: Cooperative Extension, school counselors, teachers, family resource center staff, or volunteers with appropriate backgrounds. Any facilitator, including extension staff, must accept the “love and limits” parenting concept and be able to present the curriculum as written. Facilitators need to be comfortable and flexible working with children of this age. They must be able to adjust the program to meet the needs of a particular class. Cost of the teaching manual is \$100 plus shipping.

Role of the Educator in Implementation: Educators can reinforce concepts when working with families, serve as leaders, and/or assist with recruitment and promotion of the program.