

Exploring Cultural Concepts: *Funds of Knowledge*



Keywords

Funds of Knowledge, family engagement

Some Research Highlights

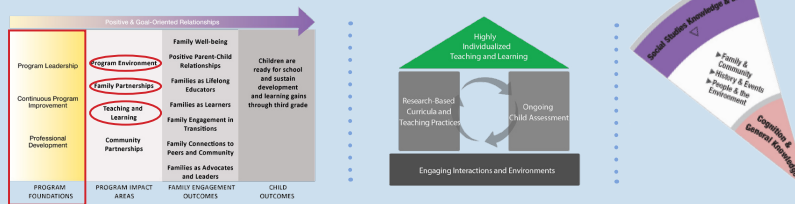
- Families have abundant knowledge that programs can learn and use in their family engagement efforts.
- Students bring with them funds of knowledge from their homes and communities that can be used for concept and skill development.
- Classroom practices sometimes underestimate and constrain what children are able to display intellectually.
- Teachers should focus on helping students find meaning in activities, rather than learn rules and facts
- Group discussions around race and class should promote trust and encourage dialogue.

Relevant Publications

Moll, L. C., Amanti, C., Neff, D., & Gonzalez, N. (1992). *Funds of knowledge for teaching: Using a qualitative approach to connect homes and classrooms*. *Theory Into Practice*, 31(2), 132-141.

González, N., Moll, L., & Amanti, C. (Eds). (2005). *Funds of knowledge: Theorizing practices in households, communities and classrooms*. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

Head Start Frameworks



This resource highlights only select aspects of each framework and is not an exhaustive review of the frameworks or the research.

Instructions for Completing *Funds of Knowledge*

- 1 Form small groups to review the 10 categories of *Funds of Knowledge*.
- 2 Think about *Funds of Knowledge* for you and your family.
- 3 Fill in your *Funds of Knowledge* on the lines provided. Skip the categories that don't pertain to you or your family. Add a new category based on your culture.
- 4 Within your small group, share the aspects of your *Funds of Knowledge* that you feel comfortable discussing.
- 5 Consider the following questions:
 - What similarities did you notice among the *Funds of Knowledge* shared in your small group? What differences did you notice?
 - How might you gather the *Funds of Knowledge* of children and families in your classroom or program?
 - How are *Funds of Knowledge* reflected in the various Office of Head Start frameworks?
 - What are some of the ways you might apply the *Funds of Knowledge* of children and families to inform culturally relevant programming (e.g. approaches to family engagement, curriculum development, instructional practices, etc.)

Note: When working with families, it is important that you have a mutually trusting relationship before you ask them direct questions about their *Funds of Knowledge*. This is especially necessary if you plan to fill out the form together.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Funds of Knowledge	
Home Language	<i>E.g., Arabic; Spanish; Navajo; Italian</i>
Family Values and Traditions	<i>E.g., holiday celebrations; religious beliefs; work ethic</i>
Caregiving	<i>E.g., swaddling baby; giving baby pacifier; co-sleeping</i>
Friends and Family	<i>E.g., visiting grandma; barbecues; sports outings</i>
Family Outings	<i>E.g., shopping; beach; library; picnic</i>
Household Chores	<i>E.g., sweeping; dusting; doing dishes</i>
Educational Activities	<i>E.g., going to the museum; taking a walk in the neighborhood</i>
Favorite TV Shows	<i>E.g., watching Dora; Sesame Street; Sid the Science Kid</i>
Family Occupations	<i>E.g., fishing; office; construction; policeman</i>
Scientific Knowledge	<i>E.g., recycling; exercising; health</i>
	<i>Additional Funds of Knowledge</i>

González, N., Moll, L., & Amanti, C. (Eds). (2005). Funds of knowledge: Theorizing practices in households, communities and classrooms. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

