



# A WAY OF BEING WITH CHILDREN

## Family Involvement in Early Education

Tips to Promote Child Well-Being and Resilience

### The Importance of Family Involvement

Parents, caregivers and teachers play a vital role in educating a child. When all are connected and have a positive and strong relationship, children are more likely to feel safe in their relationships with their teachers and have more positive attitude towards their teacher, education center and overall learning. A child's most important cognitive development happens during their preschool years. By taking an active role in early childhood education, parents can help ensure that their child has all the support they need to develop to their full potential.

### Family Involvement Benefits:

#### For a Child:

- Increased motivation for learning
- Improved behavior
- Better social skills
- Increased self-control and self-regulation
- Fewer behavioral problems
- Greater ability to adapt to situations and get along
- More consistent attendance
- More positive attitude about homework and school in general

#### For a Parent:

- More involved with their child's learning
- Feel more empowered
- Learn ways on how to support their children
- Become more confident
- Develop a greater appreciation for the role that they play, as well as that of the teacher



### Things to Consider:

#### Effective communication is key.

Communication is the key to establishing and maintaining positive partnerships between teachers and childcare centers.

#### Attitude Toward Others Impacts Relationships.

Parents are the experts on their children, however, a positive attitude toward a teacher and the role he/she plays in assisting your child's learning and development will greatly influence the type of relationship and overall satisfaction with that connection.

#### Know Your Rights.

Parents have the rights and responsibility to initiate and maintain communication with a teacher - don't hesitate to contact teachers of childcare staff with questions or concerns.

#### Consider a Teacher's Perspective.

While your child is important and a priority, a teacher has a number of priorities to care for all at one time. Understanding this, means having an understanding and respect for the teachers role - which will also enhance and strengthen the relationship between you as the parent and the teacher.

# Connecting with Teachers

## Communicating with Teachers:

- In-person communication
  - Drop off and pick-up, volunteer opportunities, open houses, parent-teacher conferences, and after-school events.
- Other forms of communications:
  - Phone calls, texts, and emails

## Speaking to Teachers:

- Speak in a clear, respectful, open and honest way.
- Ask questions and clarify.
- If comfortable, share developmental milestone and changes.
- It is up to you to decide how to address things with your child, but input from teacher may help you navigate that.

## The Importance of Listening:

- Listening is the foundation of effective communication.
- Listening helps gather more information about your child.
- Listening to teachers shows children you value them!
- Listening shows teachers that you care.

## Addressing Concerns:

- Initiate the conversation before things escalate/get worse.
- Your concerns are important and valid!
- Teachers are there to help/support children and you as the child's parent.
- Schedule a time to meet and have discussions and open conversations.

## 10 Ways to Be More Involved

1. Attend open house events.
2. Learn about what the school offers you/your child.
3. Ask the teacher about the means of communication they prefer.
4. Attend parent/teacher meetings and conferences.
5. Demonstrate a positive view of school/education at the home.
6. Encourage your child's reading and active learning.
7. Help manage the homework process.
8. Make daily activities educational: counting, naming, simple math.
9. Volunteer at school: lunches, events, in-classroom assistance.
10. Know your rights as a parent and ways in which you can advocate for your child.



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