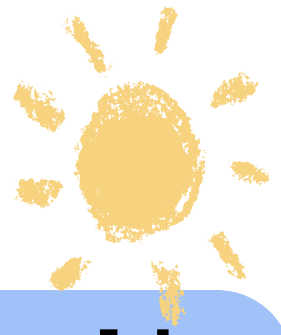


A Way of Being with Children

Practical Tools for Connection, Safety, and HOPE in Early Childhood



Building Family-Teacher Partnerships

Working Together to Support Your Child's Growth and Development

Children thrive when families and teachers work together. Consistent messages at home and school help children feel secure, supported, and understood. When adults collaborate, they can share insights, solve problems together, and celebrate successes - making daily life smoother for children and adults alike. Strong partnerships are built on trust, respect, and open communication. When caregivers and teachers stay connected, children reap significant benefits, and the adults also feel supported in their shared role.

What Strong Partnerships Look Like

- Warm, respectful greetings at drop-off and pick-up
- Sharing successes, not just challenges
- Consistent communication between home and school
- Families and teachers collaborating on child goals

Why it Matters for Children

Demonstrating strong partnerships between caregivers and teachers has a direct and lasting impact on a child's sense of safety, learning, and social-emotional growth. When children see adults communicating respectfully, collaborating, and supporting each other, they internalize these interactions as a model for healthy relationships. In short, strong partnerships create a stable, predictable, and supportive network that provides children with the emotional safety, social skills, and confidence to thrive now and in the future, both in school and beyond.



Key Impacts for Children:

1. **Increased Security and Trust:** Children feel safer when they know the important adults in their lives are aligned and supportive. Predictable, consistent messages from home and school reduce confusion and anxiety.
2. **Stronger Emotional Regulation:** When adults demonstrate calm communication and problem-solving, children learn to manage emotions, resolve conflicts, and respond to stress.
3. **Enhanced Learning and Engagement:** Knowing that home and school “work together” allows children to simply focus on exploring, playing, and learning.
4. **Positive Social Skills:** By observing adults modeling respect, active listening, and collaboration, children develop skills for cooperation, empathy, and effective communication with peers and adults.
5. **Resilience and Confidence:** Seeing adults tackle challenges collaboratively teaches children that problems can be solved through teamwork and patience. This builds resilience and encourages children to approach difficulties with a sense of competence and hope.

A Way of Being Reminder

Partnerships are not a simple checklist - they are **a way of being**. Warm, respectful, and consistent communication and collaboration shows children how positive relationships work. When adults share information, support one another, and celebrate progress together, children feel secure, empowered, and ready to grow and develop.

Key Skills for Adults

1. Build Trust First

Smile, greet warmly, and show appreciation for each other's roles. Small gestures build connection.

2. Share Positives

Start conversations with strengths before discussing challenges. Highlighting what's going well encourages cooperation and optimism.

3. Stay Consistent

Regular updates, not only problem-focused messages, help adults stay aligned and children feel secure.

4. Listen Actively

Value each other's insights about the child. Listening carefully fosters respect and stronger decision-making.

Everyday Practices

- Share your child's favorite activities, routines, interests, or any recent changes at home with the teacher
- Ask about your child's day
- Let the teacher know about anything that might affect your child's day (e.g., poor sleep, big changes, feeling unwell)
- Take part in classroom opportunities when possible
- Reinforce classroom routines or skills at home

Tips for Success

Start Small: A smile or a thank-you builds connection.

Partnership Is Mutual: Families and teachers each bring valuable knowledge about the child.

Consistency Is Key: Children thrive when adults send the same messages.

Try This!

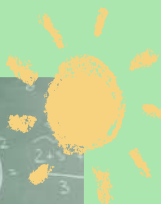
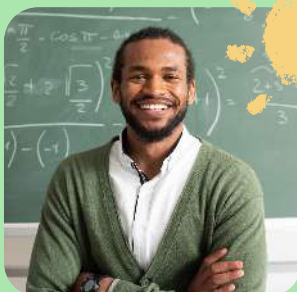
Teachers: Greet each parent by name at drop-off this week.

Families: Ask the teacher one positive question: "What did my child enjoy most today?"

Together: Create one shared goal for your child, such as improving transitions or practicing self-regulation.

Reflection for Parents

- Do I take time to notice and share the positive moments about my child, not just concerns?
- How can I show my child's teacher that I value and appreciate their role?
- Am I staying open, curious, and willing to listen when communicating with the school?
- What information could help the teacher better understand and support my child?
- What is one small step I can take this week to strengthen my connection with my child's teacher?



Scan the QR Code for More Resources:

