LINC
LEADERSHIP FOR INCLUSION IN THE EARLY YEARS
CEANNAIREACHT DO CHUIMSIÚ SNA LUATHBHLIANTA

The LINC Programme is a higher education programme designed to promote the inclusion of all children in Early Childhood Settings across Ireland, for more information see www.lincprogramme.ie

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

It is important that parents play a critical role in children's education. Working with, or partnering with parents is central to the role of early childhood teachers (LINC 2020).

How do we work in Partnership with Parents?

- Be open, welcoming and professional
- Provide opportunities to meet with parents, formally and informally
- Have an open-door and settling-in policy that supports the inclusion of all children and families
- Implement the key person approach
- Share information in multiple ways to reach all parents
- Ensure the language used in all policies, information and invitations is inclusive
- Consult parents on policy development, and share policies and key information through a parent handbook
- Have parents and children represented in the environment
- Share observations and learning portfolios and ask for feedback; this supports parents in the planning and assessment processes of their child's learning

Benefits of Partnership with Parents.

Child:

- The child feels respected, comfortable and safe
- The child relaxes as the relationship develops between their parent and the staff in the setting
- Their learning is enhanced as parents and setting staff work together
- Children's strengths are supported and their needs are met through open communication between parents and the staff

Parents:

- Parents feel welcomed, valued and respected as equal partners in their child's learning journey
- Parents gain an understanding of their child's learning and development within the early learning setting, and can use this information to support their child's learning at home
- Parents build relationships with other parents

Early Learning and Care Setting:

- Staff feel valued and respected when a partnership approach is developed
- Staff have a deeper insight into children's specific needs, culture, and lived experiences outside of the setting. This information can be used to support children and parents
- The learning environment can be designed to reflect the specific needs, culture and interests of the children and their families
- The ELC setting is a happy environment for children, parents and staff

REFERENCES

Barnardos, 2020. Working in Parnership with Paretns. A Guide for Early Childhood Professionals. Dublin : Barnardos.

Leadership for Inclusion (LINC). 2020. Six Reasons why Partnership with Parents is so Important. [Online] Available at: https://lincprogramme.ie/blog/why-partnership-with-parents-is-so-important [Accessed 02 02 2020].

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