

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 Partnership with Parents. 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].