

Maple Grove Community Group Parental Involvement

Parents are the first educators of their young children and understand them better than anyone else. Developing and enhancing relationships between the setting and parents is an area we strive hard to achieve from the very start of the child's journey with us.

The aim of the group is to support parents in their essential role. We aim to:

- Involve parents in shared record keeping about their own child, ensuring that parents have access to all records kept on their own children. All parents can access their Tapestry learning journal.
- Ensure that parents are given information on a regular basis about their child's progress and have an opportunity to discuss it with staff.
- Provide opportunities for parents to be aware of the Early Years Foundation Stage that will be covered each term by a variety of forums and formats eg Facebook, Setting website.
- Ensure that parents have the opportunities to contribute from their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the group.
- Encourage parents to become involved in the management (committee) of the group, by registering their queries, complaints, suggestions and feedback on a regular basis.
- Ensure that all parents are fully informed about any activities taking place at the setting, being mindful of days and times to try to include as many families as possible.
- Constantly evaluate different methods of communicating with parents, particularly in the fast changing times of social media and internet use.

Stay and play sessions and home visits

Stay and play sessions are a great way to form relationships with both parents/carers and children that will either be new to the setting or transitioning to a different room. It gives opportunities to talk about concerns, worries and get to know families. We love having families in to share what the children have been doing and it's a lovely way to engage with people. Staff always make time for parents/carers to discuss concerns whether that be on the door at drop off or making a time to get together later on. Tapestry is also a tool we use in order to communicate with families and share their achievements and development.

Observations and assessments

Staff use tapestry to record observations/assessments on children. Parents are actively encouraged to input into the process by uploading pictures of what they've done at home and communicate with their keyperson. This helps give the keyperson a more holistic idea of their development and can be a great conversation point to have with children when looking at observations/photos together.

There are a number of ways that parents/carers can support the activities of the setting to help with their child's learning and development;

- *Language and communication;* Parents can read and tell stories to their children, visiting the library and taking out books. Parents can support communication development by talking to their children about what they are going to do/plan to do and about the child's own activities.
- *Reading;* Parents and children can look together at all the writing in the world in their community; e.g. street signs, food packaging, TV programs, buses, menus etc.
- *Writing;* Parents can encourage their child to explore mark making in their environment anyway they can e.g. chalking, painting, and 'writing'.
- *Building self confidence and self esteem;* Parents can ask their children about what has happened during their day and listen to what they have to say, giving the events and activities a feeling of importance to the

child, encouraging them to feel part of the setting. When the gates are opened a member of staff will be at the main gate where they greet each child and is an opportunity for parents to check in/raise concerns. On collection staff will summarise what they've done/achieved to use as a talking point.

- *Making relationships;* When parents talk to their children about their peers they should help them talk positively and respectfully.
- *Encourage Independence;* Staff will work hard to encourage the children to become confident in elements of self-care e.g. toileting, putting on coats and shoes by themselves. Parents assisting with this will make a huge difference, particularly in preparation for starting school.

This policy was adopted at the meeting of the group held on.....

Signed on behalf of the group.....