

**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.
- 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 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.

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.
- *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.....