

curriculum for excellence

supporting the early level

Parents, carers and families

A CPD activity for practitioners

Introduction

Parents, carers and families are vital in enhancing and supporting all aspects of children's learning and development. It is very important that staff develop positive relationships with them as partners in children's education and that they provide appropriate support for them to engage fully in their child's learning. (Early Years Framework)

The purpose of this activity is to allow practitioners to develop their understanding of the importance of working with parents, carers and families. This CPD activity is based on staff reflecting on their own practice, using video clips to identify features of good practice and aspects they could improve further.

Time required

This activity will take approximately 1 hour.

Outcomes

- Staff will gain greater understanding of good practice of working in partnership with parents, carers and families.
- Staff will agree on action(s) for improving their practice.

Preparation

This CPD activity is based on staff using video clips to identify features of good practice and reflect on their own practice. In advance of the session, it will be helpful to organise facilities to watch the appropriate video clips and record your discussions.



Activity 1

In a group

- Note down the ways in which you currently engage with parents, carers and families.
- Discuss how these approaches support children and their families.

Activity 2

As a staff team, watch the videos

- As you watch the video, list all the ways in which staff are working with and involving parents.
- What are your impressions of the practice demonstrated in the video? Discuss what impressed you most.
- Compare the practice in the video with your notes from activity one and note areas which you feel you could further improve in your setting.
- Supporting the Early Level DVD resource – the section on 'Parents and the wider community' (11.43 mins)



- Making learning fun in Argyll and Bute (4.41 mins)



- Involvement for open learning (8.42 mins)



Reflecting on practice

As a staff team

Having considered your own practice and that shown in the videos:

- identify an aspect that, as a staff, you intend to improve in your setting
- discuss what steps you will take to develop this
- how will you know that this approach is successful in involving children and families?

Useful online resources

(Click on title to view file)

There are a range of resources to support this topic available online and on the accompanying CD-ROM.

- **Parents as partners in learning**
- **Partnership working**
- **Learning Together** publication
- Examples of good practice on Parents and the Wider Community can be found on the **HMIE** website and on **The Journey to Excellence** website
- The **Learning and Teaching Scotland** Early Years website
- The **Journey to Excellence** website
- **Parentzone**
- **Argyll and Bute** – helping parents understand Active learning
- **Armadale** – supporting children's learning by supporting parents
- **Riverside** – helping parents understand *Curriculum for Excellence*

