FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME EDUCATION NETWORK

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FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- Developing the Relationship
- FCCHEN Program Requirements
- Family Orientation
- Annual Requirements
- Establishing a 2-Way Communication System
- Designing Engagement Opportunities
- Advocacy
RELATIONSHIPS MATTER

- Purpose for Care
- Family Structure
- Culture – Personal Preferences
- Top 5 Program Expectations
- Educational Goals
- Communication Preferences
RELATIONSHIP GOALS

1. Foster Relationships as Resources
2. Promote Continuity from the Home Education Program to Elementary School
3. Focus on Family Strengths
4. Tailor Practices to Individual Needs
5. Form Collaborative Relationships
PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT & EDUCATION

• Orientation for Parents
• 2 Individual Conferences Per Year
• Parent Meetings with Program Staff
• Open Door Policy
• Parent Advisory Council
• Sharing of Information Regarding Child Developmental Progress

Parent Involvement and Education: EC8203; 5 CCR 18275
THE ORIENTATION

Parent Handbook

- Hours of Operations / Expectations
- Attendance Requirements & Documentation
- Subsidized Requirements
- Clothing / Personal Belongings
- Code of Conduct
- All Parent Expectations Clearly Spelled Out
- Deal Breakers / Your Absolut No's

The Program

- Establishing Partnership Goals
- State Requirements
- Program Guidelines
- Top 5 Program Benefits
- Year at a Glance
- Opportunities for Involvement
- Care Routines
- Curriculum / Daily Schedule / Theme / Learning Focus
- Where to Look for Important Parent Information
- Timeline Of Key Activities / Special Events / Themes
  - Fall
  - Winter
  - Spring
  - Summer

*Home Education Links to School Readiness*
Work to form partnerships with children’s families. Discuss topics such as eating, toileting, naps, and discipline, and be sure there is a good fit between parents’ wishes and what you offer in your program.

Ensure that families have a clear understanding of the boundaries in your home; this can help the children’s families respect and value your needs and those of your family. For example, tell parents if certain areas of your home are off-limits to the children.

**Maintain current records regarding the children and your child care home:**

- *Children’s medical information.* Documentation of allergies, chronic illnesses, other health-related issues, and immunizations (and whether parents object to immunizations); documents signed by parents granting permission for their children to receive emergency medical treatment if necessary.*

- *Personal and cultural information for each child.* Food preferences; likes and dislikes; holidays and traditions observed by the child’s family.

- Ask parents for advance notice of their vacation schedules so you will know when children will be absent. Likewise, give parents advance notice of your vacation plans so they can make other child care arrangements.
Business practices for licensed providers

- Give written policies to parents covering issues such as your hours of service; payment of fees (including any overtime fees); health, safety, and emergency procedures (including cpr); discipline; vacation; your provision of substitute care; people who are authorized to pick up each child from your home; transportation and field trips; and so forth.

- Maintain liability insurance for your program. The insurance should cover injuries to children, assistants, and visitors to your home. Additionally, maintain vehicle insurance if you transport children.

- Issue receipts to parents when they pay for your services.
ESTABLISHING A 2-WAY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

- Your Established Systems
- Parent Preferences
- Creative Ideas to Enhance Communication
Informal Conversations and Social Events

• Open house / BBQ / Celebrations
• Parent Meeting / Family Night
• Conferences
• Newsletters
• Telephone / Text
• Email
• Closed Facebook
• Website
• Instant Messaging
Tour of the Learning Environments
Sample Activities
Child Assessment

Things you are working on between the Fall and Summer

How are the parents / families feeling about their child’s learning experience??

What are their concerns or questions?
ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Shared Strategies for Self Regulation
- Class Projects
- Donations
- Fundraisers
- Class Parties
- Parent Helper
- Help from Home
Offer Families Opportunities that are Practical ….Tap Into What's Available ….Every Family Comes With Strengths & Community Connections
Give Families Ideas of HOW they can be Involved …Give Advance Notice of Upcoming Projects, Themes, and Learning Goals
Dear Parent,

The Playdough Club is a favorite in Kindergarten and we are always in need of homemade playdough donations. If you wish to join our Playdough Club please return the bottom portion of this letter and send it in with your child on Monday or Tuesday. Being a Playdough Club member would require you to make playdough 4 times this school year depending on how many members join. For those interested, a schedule will be made and a form will be filled indicating when to send in your dough in the early mornings. For making homemade playdough please:

Thank you so much for your continued support.

The Kindergarten Teacher

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YES! I would like to become a member of the Kindergarten Playdough Club

[Signature]

[Parent name]

[Volunteer] [Parent name]
Dear Parents,

Sometimes, small children do not make it to the restroom on time. Please send a complete change of clothing inside this Ziploc® bag. Write your child's name on the bag so that we can find it quickly. I will keep his/her clothes at school in case that they are needed.

Your child needs:
- a shirt
- pants
- under pants
- socks

Thank you,
At home learning activities

- Part of planning special events / projects
- Donations and “examples of what the donation will be used for” (recycled goods)
- Take home messages for the day
- Take home activities
- Tips to extend the learning over the weekend

Today We…
Tonight You Can…
Tomorrow We Will…
Encourage Opportunities to Extend the Learning Outside of Your Program
# 20 Ideas for Increasing Parental Involvement

| **Open House** | Welcome your families at the beginning of the year in style. Have well-planned activities for parents and children that help you learn about the family. |
| **Online Connection** | Create a blog to share information with your class. Update it weekly and encourage parents to share their experiences. |
| **Share** | Let your parents and students know about the family, your family, your pets, and your goals for the year. |
| **Photos** | Collect and share photos of the kids in action. Keep in mind what you do in school and share it to help parents feel more involved in the daily happenings of your room. |
| **Sign-Ups** | Share lists to arrange with your needs available for your parents to see all school-related events. Sign-up sheets are a great way to encourage parent and student involvement. |
| **Keep a Fun** | Arrange social events for your class where families can get to know each other. It can be a picnic at the park or a movie night for parents and kids! |
| **Phone Calls** | Try to phone your families the week before a special event to personally remind them. |
| **Buddy System** | Pair up your students for times when they have questions at home and need a quick answer. They may also be depending partners for times when they need time to themselves. |
| **Team Building** | Send out a survey to each family to see what interests and needs your parents have to offer. Have the list available for the week or month to call on help. |
| **Nitty Gritty** | Make sure your routines are clear and consistent. Schedules should be posted and clear, but with a balance that each week can stand to be different. |
| **Be Inclusive** | Communication should be multi-modal. Email, text, social networking, and phone calls are all effective. Make sure your parents have received. |
| **Thank You** | Be aware that parents who have offered events and other volunteers for you. A personal thank you means a lot. |
| **Get Techie** | Instead of one room heater, let parents plug in a heater to help warm up the classroom. Your students will be happy, and your parents will be grateful. |
| **Spread the Love** | High school events to help parents help of special needs parents. |
| **Special Events** | High school events to help parents help of special needs parents. |
| **Parent Perceptions** | Make the parents feel involved and ask them what would make it easier for them to do so. |
| **Student of the Week** | Assign each student a week where the parent can take part in class. During that week, the student can highlight the teacher on a bulletin board and have the parent come for lunch. |
| **Story Reader and Art Helper** | Get them a 20-minute block of time for parents to come and support. If it's 30 minutes, try 2-3 times a week. One parent can be interviewed with another reader and art helper. |
| **Inform** | Share workshops with parents about the importance of being involved. By doing this, you are sending the message that you want them to be part of your learning team. |

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Brag Bracelets

I had an awesome day today!

A quick way to send a positive note home!!

⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐

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LISA JENSEN
Annual Family Appreciation Day

Supportive Parents are a Lifesaver!!!
Thanks from Mrs. Clifton
• Why is Advocacy Important?
• Engaging Local Elected Officials
• Information Sharing About What's Happening & How It Impacts Families
• Strategies for Families to Advocate for Their Child
• Partnerships with Local Agencies / Parent Voices
~ QUESTIONS ~