



Unlocking the Learning

M8.1 Effective Communication With Parents

Creating positive partnerships between family child care providers and parents is crucial for supporting a child's well-being and development. Effective communication fosters trust and contributes to a smooth transition for children entering daycare.



Here are valuable tips to strengthen your relationship with parents.

Upon Enrollment:

- **Share Information:**
 - *Provide daily schedules and program plans* to reassure parents about the quality of childcare.
 - *Discuss* meals and inquire about the child's interests, sleeping habits, food preferences, behavior guidance practices, and any additional needs.
- **Learn About the Child:**
 - *Gather information* to tailor care to the child's wants and needs.

Reinforcement:

Highlight Positives:

- *Share positive aspects* of the child's day, reinforcing the strengths and achievements.
- *Encourage parents to share insights*, fostering a reciprocal flow of information.
- **Parental Involvement:**
 - Leverage parents' knowledge of their child to enhance the quality of care provided.
 - Establish a partnership that ensures a safe, secure, and enjoyable experience for the child.

Ongoing Communication:

Regular Updates:

- *Maintain ongoing communication* with parents, sharing information and discussing challenges.
- **Addressing Concerns:**
 - Prepare for discussions about difficult issues, considering the sensitivity of the topic.
 - Schedule discussions at times convenient for parents, such as pick-up/drop-off or via phone during the day.
- **Discussing Behavioral Concerns:**
 - Address concerning behavior without judgment, focusing on facts and appropriateness.
 - Explain potential contributors to the behavior, considering factors like transitions or new challenges.
- **Seek Parent Input:**
 - Check parents' perspectives on the issue, acknowledging cultural and contextual differences.
 - Collaborate on realistic strategies tailored to each family's dynamics.



Effective communication is the cornerstone of successful collaboration between family child care providers and parents. By fostering open, respectful dialogue and actively involving parents in the caregiving process, you contribute to a nurturing environment that supports the holistic development of the child.