

Writing to parents about partnership working - EYFS 2012

The EYFS 2012 puts the responsibility on the childminder to engage parents in their child's learning and development experience. If you read through the revised EYFS you will see that the word 'parents' is used repeatedly, linking them to every area of our provision.

Partnership working must cover 3 main areas -

- Parents sharing information about their child's home and family life - so you can link to their home experiences and interests to support their learning in the provision.
- Parents being involved in their child's time in the provision - reading Learning Journey booklets, looking at photos and displays, completing paperwork promptly, making comments about their satisfaction with the service you offer through questionnaires and verbal exchanges of information etc.
- Parents being happy to receive information about their child's time in the provision, commenting on learning and development and continuing activities at home.

However, many childminders struggle to work in partnership because parents are busy and, for example, forget to pass on essential information, do not have time to read what is sent home, fail to follow up activities or lose important documents and this can lead to very stressful situations.

Many childminders find it useful to send a letter home to parents during the induction process explaining how partnership working will be work and making their expectations for the future clear. You might say, for example...

Dear parents

Starting in group provision can be a scary time for both parents and children! Please be assured I have done this many times before and I am here to support both you and your child

There are lots of ways you can get involved in your child's time here and work with me to support your child's learning and development. The EYFS (which is a statutory framework) tells us that partnership working is the best way to make sure all children make the good progress and reach their full potential in their lives.

Over the next few weeks we will discuss how we regularly communicate with you about your child's progress, share information with you about your child's learning and development, give you ideas for activities your child might enjoy at home, share our planning with you and let you know about how your child spends their time with us.

You could then go on to list some of the ways you share information with parents and are asking them to communicate with you in the future...

If you have any questions about any aspect of our service or would like more information about the EYFS and how childminders use it in their work, please ask.