

Early Childhood Program Parent & Family Involvement

- Screening: Every child whose parent completes a referral form is screened for designated risk factors to determine eligibility. During screening process parent input is gathered through interview and parent questionnaires. Information on child's background and current levels of functioning is documented and considered.
- Open House: All parents are invited to accompany their child as they visit the school and classroom and go through a typical school day routine.
- Home Visit: Classroom teachers conduct a home visit for each child enrolled in their class. The purpose of these visits is to open communication between the school and family, and to help teachers appreciate the home and supports their family provides their child. Children are comfortable in their home setting and it creates a safe environment with the first introduction to the teacher.
- Daily Communication: Each day, the classroom teacher sends a structured information sheet home with the child that includes specific details about the individual child's day (i.e. play activities, snack, highlights from the day, additional information that is important to communicate). Parents may return the form the following day to share information from home or ask questions to seek information. The Daily note can address specific information about key issues that occur at home (sleep, eating, mood, etc.). The goal of this communication is to ensure the child has a positive transition between home and school.
- Parent Education: A variety of opportunities are scheduled to include parents in activities with their child throughout the school year. Dates are scheduled in advance so that families can plan ahead if they are interested in participating. Exit slips and feedback are completed following events to allow staff to consider parent needs for future events.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences: Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled to accommodate the parent's schedule. The teacher shares details regarding the student's progress towards the Creative Curriculum Objectives.
- Curriculum Night: Curriculum training/information sharing is held in the evening to help parents understand the curricular approaches in the classroom. Assessment and progress documentation is discussed and shared with families.
- Volunteer Opportunities: Families are encouraged and welcome into the classroom to participate in daily classroom activities. Volunteer opportunities also exist to support teachers with projects from home, for parents unable to join the classroom due to time conflicts. Each parent participates as they feel comfortable with the support and training needed from the teacher.
- Family Enrichment Opportunities: Parents are invited to attend workshops at school on various topics. The topics and activities are flexible and also allow children and parents to attend together. During such events, teachers model strategies, share resources, and inform/teach the importance of such developmentally appropriate activities. Community trips are also planned to assist families in finding opportunities out in the community that support learning and development.
- Ongoing Communication with Family Liaison: There is a designated person on staff to assist parents in various ways (i.e. provide resources, connect families to community agencies, toy/book lending library, parenting strategies, etc.) to help the parents meet the needs of their families.
- School Sponsored Events: Families are encouraged and invited to participate in various school events that allow families to participate in the school community (i.e. book fairs, picnics, Field Day, Walk to School Day, Fun Run, and other individualized site PTO events).