



Child Care Answers Parents in the know

Parents + Providers = great benefits for children

When a parent contacts our program one of the first statements made is that they are seeking quality programs for their children. While there are several indicators of a quality program one of the first and vital areas is creating a positive relationship between the parent and provider. Both sides bring important information into the relationship. Unlike anyone else, parents have the true knowledge of their children and the provider has the knowledge of early childhood education as well as age appropriate developmental practices. When both are combined in a united front it makes for a positive program for the children. It is important to build the relationship with 2 way communication which leads into trust, sharing of goals/ expectations and information/resources.

Some positive goals to work toward:

- ◆ Communication on a daily basis by email, notes scheduled meetings; a communication notebook that goes back and forth with the children; and / or phone calls. Discuss which type of communication or a combination of all works best for all involved.
- ◆ It is important for parents to feel they can share information about their children to help ensure a more comfortable and smooth transition. The providers need to remember that this information is confidential and never to be shared with other parents or those not directly involved with the care of the children.
- ◆ There should be ongoing opportunities for the parents to be involved in the child care program. Parents who are students or working may find it hard to be involved during the day. A parent group that meets after hours or weekends may be helpful.

- ◆ The parents are given the opportunities to give feedback on the program. Parents are a great resource to help enrich and develop ideas. Not all suggestions are possible but need to be listened to and respected.
- ◆ Both providers and parents need to be sensitive to new cultures and family experiences. A truly rich program will welcome and open doors to exploring cultural diversity with a variety of materials, activities, toys and books. Parents need to be encouraged to help share their heritage not only with the providers but also with the children in the program.

These are only a few of the ideas for developing a positive working relationship for parents, providers and children. If you would like some additional information on quality indicators, please feel free to visit our website at www.childcareanswers.com. If you have any questions or concerns in your search for care, please contact us at 317-631-4643/1-800-272-2937. We will be happy to answer your questions or direct you to the right person.

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