

Parent Involvement in early childhood

Recently comment has been made regarding parental involvement in early childhood settings. So it is timely for a tip about how much parents should be involved. Parents play a vital role in their children's early education right from when they make a decision about which early childhood centre their child is going to attend. Once that decision is made, and many different factors will sway this decision, then it is important for the parent/s to be involved as much as they can.

There is a lot of research that says parents who are involved with their children's education do better academically over a period of time. According to research, parental involvement not only improves a child's morale, attitude and academic achievement but it also promotes better behaviour and social adjustment. In all these ways, family involvement in education helps children to grow up to be productive and responsible members of the public.

There are different types of involvement ranging from helping out on a regular basis, participating in excursions, contributing to learning stories, parent helping or talking with your child about their day, as well as being on the Family Liaison Group/committee which all show that you are interested and involved. Being involved in these ways creates a partnership between the kindergarten/centre and the home which promotes effective communication allowing information to be shared. It also tells children that education is important.

If you choose to be involved by spending more time at the kindergarten/centre with your child, then there are endless things you can do to help and be involved. The best way is to ask the teachers how best you can support them as they will have many ideas and perhaps even a list. If you choose to spend time with your child, once they are well settled, then children will particularly enjoy having you show an interest in what they are doing. It may be that you read them stories or support them with an activity. All these efforts will connect the family with the kindergarten/centre and help children to succeed in their learning, at their early childhood centre/kindergarten, at school and in the future.