

# Inviting Parent Participation

High Quality child care is easiest when parents and childcare providers work in partnership. Childcare providers play an important role in creating environments that encourage parent and family involvement. Your actions and interactions with parents and families tell children that these special people in their lives are important to you too.

Here are some ways to help parents and families feel like welcome participants in their child's care. Some are very simple and others take more time.

Greet families with a smile and friendly words.

Have informal conversations with families.

Ask about how the child's night went.

Share highlights of the child's day.

Make time for longer conversations.

Hold parent conferences (in person or telephone if needed) on a regular basis.

Create a parent corner or room where they can meet each other.

Advertise your open-door policy.

Display a family photo collage of special people in each child's life.

Share child's progress.

Give parents a list of ways to participate:

- Be a program reader

- Write articles for the program newsletter

- Participate in music days or other special days

- Fix broken toys, do laundry, or other maintenance work

- Playground help

- Help with staff appreciation days or events

- Help with fundraising activities