

Parent Involvement in Child Development And Education

POLICY:

Parents are provided opportunities to learn about and participate in educational and developmental activities for children in the classroom, home and community in order to support their progression toward school readiness.

This policy relates to Head Start Performance Standards 45 CFR Part 1304.41

PROCEDURE:

1. Parents are given opportunities to be involved in curriculum planning through participation in:
 - a. Education Home Visits
 - b. Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - c. Parent meetings
 - d. Curriculum development/advisory committees
(see Home Visits/Conferences, Parent Meeting policies)
 - e. Volunteering in the classroom
 - f. Surveys
 - g. Individual concerns or input shared with the teaching staff
2. Parents are encouraged to volunteer in the classroom, become members of policy groups, and attend parent meetings in order to become familiar with the program. They receive orientation plus training to support them in these activities. (see Parent Participation, Parent Orientation policies)
3. Issues related to child development and developmentally appropriate practices will be addressed during Education Home Visits/Parent-Teacher Conferences as well as parent meetings and trainings.
4. Staff will help guide parents with age appropriate activities to encourage their children to become engaged in developmental and educational activities at home and in their communities.

5. The Education Home Visits will address developmental/learning opportunities in the home setting by offering choices of activities for parents to participate with their child(ren) in the home.

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6. Parents can access literacy as well as career development funds to pursue goals of furthering education. They may take courses that will help them learn early childhood skills of working with their children at home or in the classroom. (see Literacy Assistance, Parent Career Development policies)
7. Staff maintains documentation of parent involvement opportunities including: Education Home Visits, Parent/Teacher Conferences, Parent Curriculum Input, Parent Committee meetings, workshops/trainings, choosing of home activities, printed materials/handouts.

Approved by the Policy Council August 2013