

Parent Involvement in Child Development Education and Parent/Child Activities

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 1302.34, 1302.50, 1302.51, 1304.41

PROCEDURE:

1. Parents are given opportunities to be involved in curriculum planning through participation in:
 - a. Education Home Visits and Family Home Visits
 - b. Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - c. Parent meetings, Policy Committee and Advisory Committees
 - d. Curriculum development
(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, be observers, or become paid staff 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, Volunteer Orientation/Training policies)
3. Issues related to child development, curriculum, and developmentally appropriate practices will be addressed during Education Home Visits/Parent-Teacher Conferences as well as parent meetings and trainings. (see Parent Meeting policy)
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. Activities will be sent home on a regular basis for family and child to work on

together in the home setting. No more than one (1) home activity will be sent to the families each week. Family home projects should not be any more than 1 hour.

5. The Educational and Family Home Visits will address developmental/learning opportunities in the home setting. Educational Home Visits will offer choices of activities for parents to participate with their child(ren) in the home.
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, Family Home Visits, Parent/Teacher Conferences, Parent Curriculum Input, Parent Committee meetings, Policy Committee meetings, workshops/trainings, choosing of home activities, printed materials/handouts.