

Involving Families – Sharing Community Resources

Summary

What is Sharing Community Resources, anyway?

- Educators provide families with information on community resources that are related both to social and emotional development and challenging behaviour. (e.g. parenting classes, workshops, parent support groups, mental health services)

What's the Point?

- Encourages a practice of relationships, where families and educators work and learn together.
- Creates connections for educators and families to their broader community.
- Appreciates the significance of the family in the life of their child and nurtures that relationship.
- Supports families in their learning about social and emotional development and challenging behavior.

How Do I Do This?

- Engage families to learn about their interests, needs, questions or queries.
- Actively listen to family's questions and concerns.
- As a team, research learning opportunities in your community (e.g. Family resource centre, library programs,).
- Share information about community resources with families in a variety of ways (newsletters, email, verbal) to ensure all families can access the information.
- Follow up with families to learn what resources have been helpful to the family and to provide ongoing support, if needed.

How Will the Children Participate in This Practice?

- Children can participate in community activities with their families.
- Children can share their experiences at community activities or programs.

Checklist

Task	Complete?
Educators brainstorm ways to engage families to ask which community resources would be valuable (e.g. social and emotional development and challenging behavior resources).	
Educators observe children's participation and reflect on types of resources that may be meaningful to children and families.	
Educators will research programs and other resources available in the community where families are located.	
Educators brainstorm a variety of ways to share information with families, with consideration to family's individual needs (e.g. home language, newsletter, bulletin board, verbal sharing, pamphlets displayed).	
Educators share resources related to social and emotional development, challenging behaviour and other interests expressed by families.	
Educators Follow up with families to learn what resources have been helpful to the family and to provide ongoing support, if needed (e.g. parent survey, verbal check-in).	

You seek and build relationships with community members to enhance and extend children's learning experience. As well, you seek relationships with the broader early childhood community for your own professional growth. This network of relationships supports your complex, dynamic, and multifaceted role as an educator.

Makovichuk, Hewes, Lirette & Thomas, 2014, p. 51

Flight: Alberta's early learning and care framework.

Retrieved from www.flightframework.ca

