

Involving Families – Sharing Social and Emotional Strategies

Summary

What is Sharing Social and Emotional Strategies, anyway?

- Educators work with families to provide practical strategies that they can use during every day routines and activities to support their children's social-emotional development and prosocial behavior.

What's the Point?

- Enhances families understanding of the importance of social skills and emotional literacy skills in early childhood.
- Adds to family's knowledge of strategies to support child's pro-social behaviour and expression of emotions in order to interact with peers.
- Promotes a relationship of shared learning between educators and families that supports children's participation.
- Highlights that social and emotional development are foundational skills to lifelong learning.

How Do I Do This?

- Observe children in their program to gain insight into the children's strengths and needs in the areas of social and emotional development.
- Engage families in bi-directional communication to learn about families' questions regarding their child's social and emotional development and strategies that are working at home.
- Gather a variety of resources about social and emotional development that support families use of strategies that promote pro-social behavior, peer interaction skills and emotional literacy.
- Follow up with families to encourage on-going learning.

How Will the Children Participate in This Practice?

- Children share their experiences participating in social and emotional learning activities with their families.
- Children tell their families about their experiences playing with peers in the program.

Checklist

Task	Complete?
Educators observe children to gain insight into the children's strengths and needs in the areas of social and emotional development and share their observations with their team and the family.	
Educators consider questions they may ask families to gain insight into what information around social skills and emotional development families may want support with.	
Educators invite families to share the strategies that are working at home.	
Educators use information from their observations and discussions with families to research and gather articles or other documents to support children's social and emotional development learning.	
Educators brainstorm a variety of ways to share resources and materials with families. (email, in person, bulletin board, newsletter, etc.)	
Educators connect with families to follow up on which resources were useful and their experiences at home (successes and challenges).	

When you participate with children and families as co-learners, co-researchers, and co-imagers of possibilities, you create responsive environments for children that reflect an image of the child as a mighty learner and citizen.

Makovichuk, Hewes, Lirette & Thomas, 2014, p. 56

Flight: Alberta's early learning and care framework.

Retrieved from www.flightframework.ca

