Pre-school Learning Alliance

Management and Leadership Strategies for Parental Engagement

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‘Parents are children’s first and most enduring educators. This starts from birth and continues throughout their lives. Parents, and wider family, are especially important for babies and very young children’.

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The EYFS Themes and Commitments

2.1 Parents are children's first and most enduring educators. When parents and practitioners work together in early years settings, the results have a positive impact on children's learning and development

The EYFS Themes and Commitments

2.4 A key person has special responsibilities for working with a small number of children, giving them the reassurance to feel safe and cared for and building relationships with their parents.

Based on a ‘traditional’ view of parenting which sees the mother as the primary carer and the father as the main breadwinner and source of discipline, many fathers were perceived to think that family services were ‘not for them’.

DCSF Report 2008

MESSAGE FOR PARENTS

Will parents please note that doors are unlocked at 12pm and not before. Parents arriving before 12.00 will not be admitted

Authoritarian Management

- holds all the power
- makes decisions
- determines objectives
- at odds with EYFS framework for partnership working
- does not delegate
- not very approachable

Democratic Management

- participation
- partnership
- knows when to exert authority and when to ‘step back’
- facilitates collaboration and team work
- promotes confidence in parents and is approachable

Laissez-faire Management

- abdicates responsibility
- sometimes described as a ‘lazy’ approach
- team is already competent and motivated?
- manager or leader is intimidated by the skills and knowledge within the team and will not challenge?
- does not promote confidence

A unique child
A unique person
A unique parent

A unique opportunity