

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

Do parents want more information about their child's day?

Is pick up time crazy, making it difficult to communicate with parents?

Do you feel like parents aren't "hearing" what you are saying?

Here are some tips to try to promote more effective communication:

- 1. Provide parents with a daily sheet informing them of their child's day.**
 - **Meals served, diaper changes, behavior issues, fun activities, etc.**
 - **If a daily sheet is too much, do you have a bulletin board where you could post your daily menu, schedule, etc.**

- 2. Schedule a "conference" or a time in the evening to call a parent to discuss sensitive issues.**
 - **Do not discuss these issues in front of other children or parents.**
 - **You want to have the parent's undivided attention.**
 - **Include the parent in a discipline plan. Listen to their ideas as to what works with their child at home.**
 - **Be honest regarding behaviors, let parents know what their child is doing that is not ok.**

- 3. Remember to share the good stuff!**
 - **Parents want to hear what their child is doing and learning throughout the day.**
 - **Let parents know if you are planning a special lesson or activity so that they can re-enforce the ideas at home.**
 - **Let parents know when their child meets a new developmental or social milestone.**

- 4. Be open to criticism.**
 - **Know that parents have made the very difficult decision to leave their precious child in your care. Be proud that they have entrusted you with their child's care!**
 - **Listen to concerns that they have and put yourself in their shoes.**
 - **Be accommodating to reasonable requests.**

Most importantly, enjoy the kids! Keeping the lines of communication open with parents will make your job more enjoyable and rewarding.