



BRIDGING HOME AND SCHOOL

A strong home/school connection is essential when building a good environment for young children. As teachers and directors, we must initiate and develop this relationship.



It is up to us to make families feel welcome at any time.

Parents are often wary of intruding in the classroom and do not want to offend us by their presence or questions. So, it is important that you be honest and let parents know that while the children are your first priority, you want to spend time talking to them.

Recommend times that are best suited for informal conversations – perhaps at drop-off, pickup, or by telephone. Again, it is important to build a strong bridge between home and school, so parents feel relaxed and welcome. Nurture mutual trust and respect at every opportunity.

See the sample article on the next page. You can send it home to parents to learn strategies to bridge the home life and school life!

Dear Parents,

We all know if a bridge is not structurally sound, it will eventually collapse. Likewise, if relationships are not built on a sturdy foundation, they too will fail.

Too often parents and program staff are intimidated by each other. But by willingly beginning the home/school relationship with an open, sharing approach, we can build trust. Then, when issues arise – even sticky ones – we can talk about them without hesitation.

All of us here try to do our best to keep you informed. We post pertinent information on the parent bulletin board as well as include it in the newsletter. We send home other information with your child. We also want to talk with each of you often.

Feel welcome to visit the classroom at any time. Come eat lunch with us. Drop by and tell us a story or show us something special. Or just take a break, have a seat, and enjoy the children.

Clearly, ongoing interaction and support from both families and staff make the connection between home and school a two-way street. You can help by sharing information about your child with us. Especially during any crisis or period of change, when children are under stress and act or react differently, please keep us informed. Obvious times include a change in jobs, a move to a new house, or an illness or death in the family, but they also could involve the child experiencing nightmares, making changes in eating habit, and stopping or starting medication. Of course, anything you share with a member of our staff will be held in confidence.

In turn, we'll alert you to anything out of the ordinary that we might notice in your child here at the center. Only by sharing information can we build a bridge strong enough to support our children.

