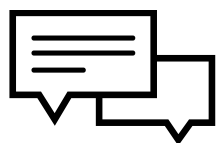




FRAMEWORK

FOR PARENTAL
INVOLVEMENT



MUTUAL

2016-1-SE01-
KA201-022109



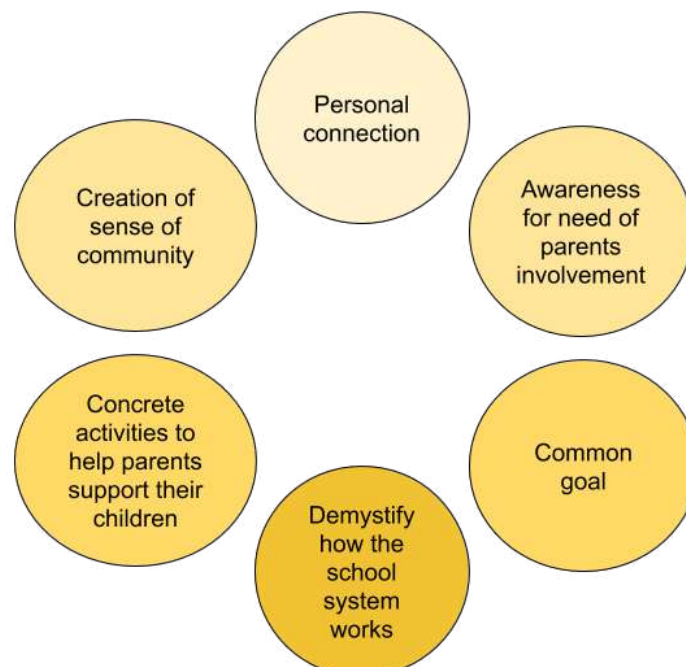
Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

FRAMEWORK FOR PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT



This framework is based on the results from the interviews and discussions with childcare professionals and managers at 15 nurseries/preschools in the period between January and March, 20017. In the search for the ideas, we have looked for the examples of good practises from the previous or ongoing Erasmus plus projects, in particular, the cases of the similar projects within Comenius/Erasmus plus project funding scheme in particular: the projects Parents Corner and Supporting Social and Emotional Competences of Preschool Children.

The results are summarized in 6 points which were identified as crucial in forming more inclusive, inviting and engaging environments in preschool settings. They are working on organisation as well as structural level:



THE ACTIVITIES AIMED AT MAKING PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

The personal connections are very important and even more so where parents have previously felt unwelcomed or insecure either because of language, cultural, economic concerns or because of their lack of education. The examples of personal connections can be seen where parents are appointed a person (recruiter or child care professional) who forms personal, warm connections with parents, makes extra effort to prepare personal invitations for parents, take parents' concerns and personal needs and worries into account, showing respect for parents' feelings and concerns, paying attention to parents' personal situations, remembers parents names, engages with them and make sure they understand the information they receive, make sure they are able to communicate the children's needs in return. The practitioner should be able to show appreciation and praise for parents' contributions and participation, greeting parents as they come and leave the class, and inviting open communication by giving some personal information about him or herself and providing parents with a way to contact him or her outside of the class.

The emphasis should be on regular communication. To help parents engage in such communication, the child care professional can provide simple scripts in parents own language, visual aids, flashcards, overheads, and handouts to help them with the general conversation. The process should ideally start prior to the child's enrollment.



Photo by rawpixel.com from Pexels

THE ACTIVITIES AIMED AT RAISING AWARENESS AND CONCERNS AROUND CHILDREN'S' ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE NEED FOR PARENTS INVOLVEMENT

In some cases, it can be recognized that parental involvement is not commonly seen as important by parents. It is, therefore, the child care professionals role to raise parent awareness of their rights to be involved in their children's learning. The potential problems that may arise if they are not involved, and the potential benefits if they become involved. The childcare professional should try to create a team with parents and speak with a sense of urgency and use language such as, 'We are here on a special mission. We are an emergency team to help you support your kids and help them get a better education'. He or she channels the concern of parents into commitment and action by letting parents know how the children are monitored and assessed.

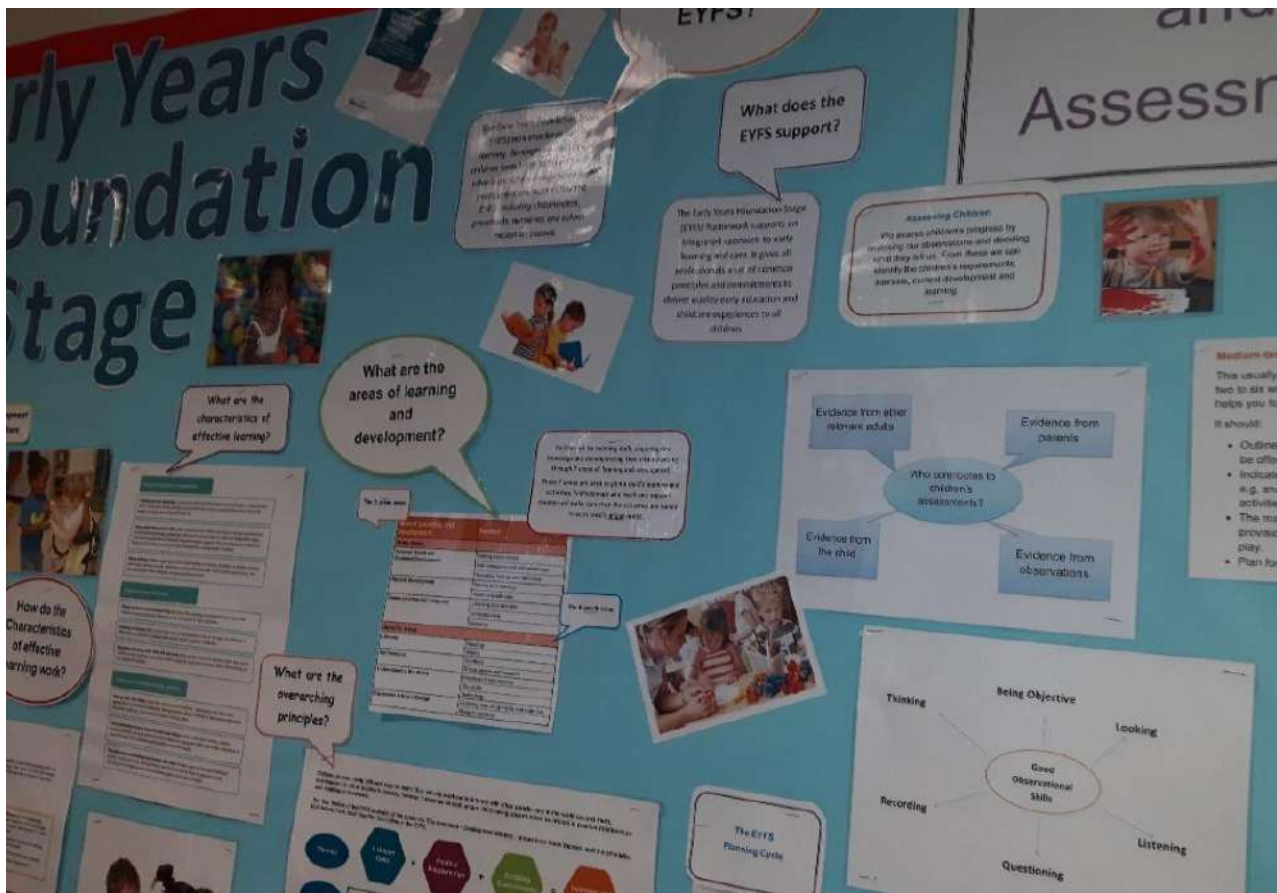


Photo by Lukas from Pexels

ESTABLISH A CLEAR AND COMMON GOAL

Another effective strategy is emphasizing a shared goal of having parents' children work with child care settings. The early year's framework with concrete goals can be used as a starting point. The childcare professional can explain to the parent what milestones are expected from the children and what they can do to support a child. For example within the area of the language of communication: the child can follow the story and can repeat simple words. They can then plan the activities of how the milestone will be reached. The nursery can, for example, prepare reading bags, organize extra reading sessions for parents and children to attend. Use additional visual clues and gestures to support the understanding.



Photo by Lukas from Pexels

DEMYSTIFY HOW THE SCHOOL SYSTEM WORKS BY PROVIDING BASIC INFORMATION

Provide the information about how the preschool and school system work by providing basic information on nursery programs, policies, and staff and on how to support effectively one's child. Through discussions and small-group exercises, key topics can be addressed, such as the learning goals, the health and safety regulations, school policies (e.g., grade promotion/retention, graduation, parent conferences), nursery resources, parent involvement opportunities and suggestions for ways to support children's learning at home.



Photo by Matthis Volquardsen from Pexels

ACTIVITIES THAT SUGGEST CONCRETE BEHAVIOURS THAT PARENTS CAN USE AT HOME TO SUPPORT THE CHILD'S LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Childcare practitioners can suggest several behaviours that parents can practice to support their children's education. This can be handouts with a list of ideas that parents can put into practice. For example, to create a more supportive home learning environment recommends that parents establish an interesting play area at home, have the necessary supplies (pencils, paper, books) available at home, model frequent reading and create a reading space and others. Nurseries can organize fundraising events for a donation of books, toys, craft making tools.



<https://www.socialmoms.com/know/parenting-2/education-parenting-2/creating-toddler-learning-environment-home/>

ACTIVATES TO CREATE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND PEER SUPPORT NETWORK

Child care professionals can make an effort to help to create a sense of community and peer support, a network that will continue beyond the term of the class. Nurseries and preschools organize various activities and events to enable networking. The peer support network is also important to encourage parents to try new behaviours and question certain school policies if they are not familiar with them. The childcare professionals are promoting the networking of parents by encouraging parents to meet each other, learn each other's names and stories, establish friendships.



<http://blog.sandinyoureye.co.uk/2017/sand-sculpture-workshops/sand-art-workshops-families-bradford-festival/>