

Aligning Program Practices with Parent Wishes

Is there room for compromising and individualizing the program's response to families? Parents should know the areas where staff will be guided by parents' wishes, those where staff and parents will negotiate an outcome comfortable for both, and those where program practices are fixed and non-negotiable. If the longest list is the non-negotiable one, then a look at the program's attitudes toward parents is warranted.

	Parent's Decision	Negotiable	Non-negotiable
Center Practices			
Caring Routines			
Learning / Curriculum			

Communicating with Parents

How Effective Are We?	Very Effective			Ineffective	
Daily contact	5	4	3	2	1
Daily experience sheets or journals	5	4	3	2	1
Room letters and newsletters	5	4	3	2	1
Web page	5	4	3	2	1
Notice boards and signs	5	4	3	2	1
Parent mailboxes	5	4	3	2	1
E-mail and voice mail	5	4	3	2	1
Documentation panels	5	4	3	2	1
No surprises: delivering “bad” news	5	4	3	2	1
Staff expresses sensitive concerns to parents	5	4	3	2	1
Welcoming parents into the room through photographs	5	4	3	2	1
Random acts of kindness and senseless generosity	5	4	3	2	1
Parents expressing sensitive concerns	5	4	3	2	1
Parent conferences	5	4	3	2	1