

# Childcare Connections

## Family Engagement and Communication

When there is a strong connection between home and school, children benefit.

Early childhood professionals know that this partnership is critical to the development of the whole child and will communicate regularly with parents about their observations and/or concerns.

**Childcare Standards 2018 Standard 14.2** A system is in place for regular exchange of information between parents and providers about children's activities and learning. Parents are encouraged to share information, their views and have their concerns acknowledged and respected e.g. daily record book.



### Why is it important to document observations, concerns, progress and activities?

Communication should be more than just photos of children completing activities or aspects of their caregiving routines. While those are a great start, communication should also include information about observations, concerns, and progress. Having open communication in various forms with parents/guardians allows for transparency and provides them with an insight into their child's learning and promotes a supportive, nurturing, safe and responsive environment.

**Observations, portfolios, daily logs and developmental checklists** can be used to assist with planning and identifying strengths and weaknesses, or providing evidence if you or a parent raises concerns about a child's behavior or development.

**Photos and videos** can put parents at ease and make them feel like they are involved as they receive updates during the day. These are ways to collect and share samples of children's work or document an injury a child may have received.

**General emails, group messaging, newsletters and lesson planning** provides parents with knowledge of the focus of the events, notices, activities and learning that will occur.

**Private messages, parent teacher conferences, phone calls or quick conversations during drop off or pick up** allow for more personalized timely communication. Be mindful when having in person conversation of the sensitivity of the topic and others around.

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