

FAMILY FOCUS

Getting Parents Involved in Child Care

By Kami Cohorst, Child Care Aware® of Kansas, Project Director

Families are children's first and most important teachers, advocates, and nurturers. Strong family engagement in child care is central to promoting children's healthy development and wellness, including social-emotional and behavioral development; preparing children for school; seamlessly transitioning them to kindergarten; and supporting academic achievement in elementary school and beyond. When children see good relationships between teachers/staff and their families, they feel proud, important, loved and safe!

"At the end of the day the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."

- Jane D. Hull

Taking time off from work or carving time out of busy schedules to participate in child care activities is often easier said than done, however, when parents get involved they can help children become more comfortable in the environment and interested in learning which can lead to success in school.

How to Get Involved

- Allow time at drop-off or pick-up to talk or schedule a weekly/monthly meeting(s) - these are great times to visit about how things are going and any upcoming changes.
- Sign-up on the parent helper list.
- Get involved in the weekly e-mail newsletter - help distribute information or contribute articles
- Participate in parent questionnaires - oftentimes these surveys impact decisions
- Share a special talent or skill - visit with the children about something that is unique about your family, job or a passion/hobby of yours.
- Check the bulletin board frequently for updates.
- Attend special events.
- Drop-in and visit.

Take Home Tip

Involvement in child care activities does not end at child care. Keep the interest going at home and talk with children about their day!

References:

- Better Kid Care: Secrets of How to Get Parents Involved
- Child Care Aware: Family Involvement
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services & U.S. Department of Education-
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ecd/draft_hhs_ed_family_engagement.pdf



**Do you know somebody interested in becoming a child care provider?
Have them call their local Child Care Resource & Referral Agency at 855-750-3343 for more information!**