



## IT'S A WIN-WIN SITUATION:

### When Parents and Providers Work Together

**C**hild care is a necessary part of many families. Child care not only promotes growth and development in children, but it also helps to strengthen families and communities. Child care providers are an important family resource for support and child development education.



### Creating a Positive Relationship

Children benefit most when parents and providers work together to plan and provide care. In a partnership, child care providers bring their knowledge of children's educational and developmental needs and parents bring the knowledge of their children's strengths, needs and interests. Together, parents and providers develop goals that are best for each child within the child care setting.

Positive relationships between parents and providers are created by two-way communication, a feeling of trust, sharing of goals and expectations, providing information and resources, and having opportunities to make joint decisions about the care children will receive. A successful partnership between parents and providers will have some of the following qualities:

- Parents and providers communicate on a daily or other regular basis.

- Parents trust and feel at ease with the child care program.
- There are many opportunities for parents to be involved in activities in the child care setting.
- Providers are always asking parents for input and feedback on the program.
- Children are doing well and happy within the child care setting.

### WAYS TO COMMUNICATE

(WHAT IT WILL LOOK LIKE)

- Regular emails or notes are being sent between parents and providers.
- Parents and providers have regularly scheduled meetings to discuss the child's progress and development in the program.
- A daily notebook goes back and forth from home to the program-providers and parents write notes to each other about the child or any other issues or concerns.
- Telephone calls are made when concerns arise or when there is an immediate issue that needs addressing.



## Benefits of a Partnership

When the parent-provider relationship is working at its best, there are many opportunities to add to the overall development of children and to provide family-centered services. A successful parent-provider partnership is good for everyone:

- Children have support in their daily activities.
- Parents benefit when providers and staff understand and respond to their children's needs, and provide information and resources that helps them.
- Providers benefit by having the much needed input, support, and participation of parents for their program.



## What Parents Can Do

Parents want the best for their children. When placing a child in child care, many parents go through a period of anxiety and uneasiness because they are concerned about their child's well-being. Some of the concerns and questions parents may ask themselves are: Will the child care provider like my child? Will she understand my child's moods? How can I be sure my child will be happy there?

These are all reasonable concerns. Parents know their children better than anyone else. So when other people are caring for their children, they realize no one can care for them in the same way. This will always be true.

However, there are ways parents can ease some of their concerns before and after choosing a child care provider.

## When Choosing a Child Care Provider

Parents Should Ask About and Look for the Following:

1. Do you agree with their discipline procedures?
2. Are there any program policies you may need to ask about?
3. Do they encourage parent involvement. If so, what kind?

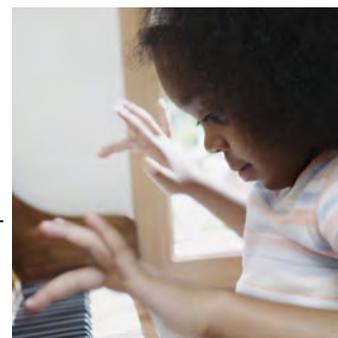
*Temperament and manner of the child care provider(s)*

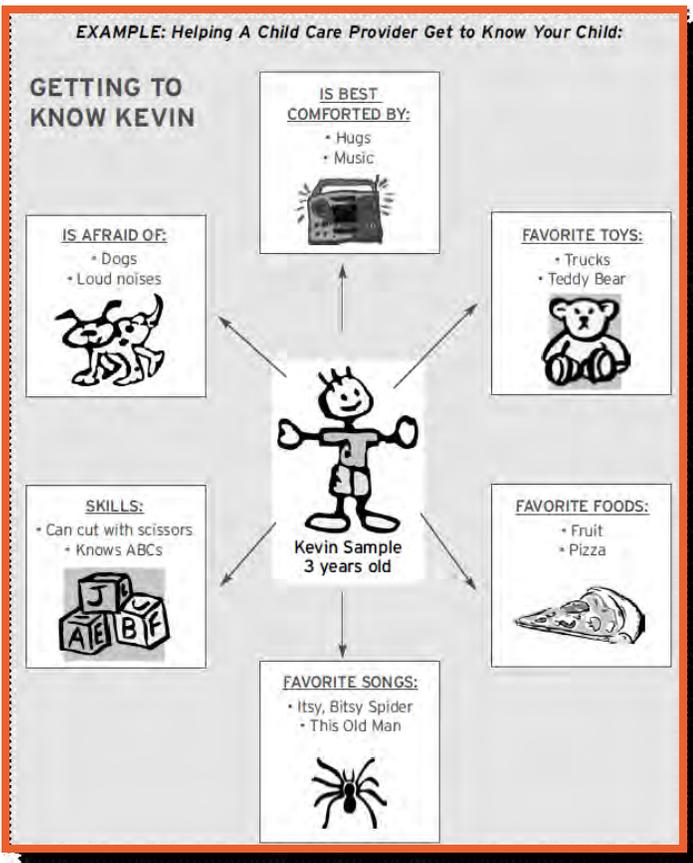
1. Are you as a parent comfortable with the provider?
2. Do you think your child will fit in well?
3. How do they prefer to communicate?
4. Is that compatible with your style? How do they interact with other children?

## Helping a Child Care Provider Get to Know Your Child:

There are many ways you can help a provider get to know your child and your expectations for child care. Here are a few:

1. Make a one page diagram of your child-place a picture of your child in the middle of the page with your child's name and age underneath (see example on next page). Draw lines from the outer edges of the picture and form small boxes around the picture with different categories, such as: Favorite Foods (apples, pizza), and Favorite Activities (painting, building). This is a fun and creative way to let the provider know about your child.
2. Share photos of your child with the provider and tell her about each one.
3. Have a talk with the provider about what your hopes and expectations are for your child while in child care.
4. Volunteer to help out in the program whenever you can. Let the provider know you support the program.





## What Providers Can Do

In both a center and a family child care home setting, child care providers play a big role in creating partnerships with parents. Parents need to be an integral part of the child care program and providers can help make this happen.

To foster a partnership with parents, providers can:

- Learn as much as possible about the children in their program and get to know their families as well. Learn about family rituals and routines and how they interact with one another.
- Encourage open communication with parents. Be a good listener and avoid making judgments.
- Be sensitive to cultural and family experience difference. Reflect cultural diversity in the program with a variety of materials, toys, books and activities.

- Encourage and find ways to include parents in program activities and program decisions. Invite them to participate in classroom activities. Ask their opinions about program improvements.



- Host a family cookout and have the children's families bring a dish to share with everyone. Encourage the adults who are important in the children's life to come as well, such as uncles, aunts, grandparents, and so on.
- Make sure each child has a special area in your program and invite families to come and decorate that area with artwork, photographs, drawings, or other items that are reflective of that child's family and home life.
- Create and give out a newsletter to families on a regular basis letting them know about upcoming events at the program, resources in the community, and specific accomplishments and trainings that involve program staff.

For More Information on Building Positive Relations:

- Child Care Aware, [www.childcareaware.org](http://www.childcareaware.org)
- National Network for Child Care, [www.nncc.org](http://www.nncc.org)
- National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)

The Daily Parent is prepared by NACCRRRA, the nation's network of child care resource and referral, with funding by the Citigroup Foundation, Washington, D.C.  
© 2004 NACCRRRA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



# PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY! Friday, May 11th



States are already receiving proclamations from their governors honoring child care providers. See Washington's proclamation below!

Provider Appreciation Day, celebrated each year on the Friday before Mother's Day, is a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers and other educators of young children.

Nearly 11 million children under age 5 spend a portion of their week in the care of someone other than their mother – on average, about 35 hours per week. To help thank providers, we have created downloadable materials you can share with parents.

Click on these links to create a personalized [thank you](#) card or a [certificate](#) of appreciation.

## Other Ideas for Showing Your Appreciation:

- Get together with other parents to create a surprise- Send flowers, cards or handwritten notes of appreciation
- Prepare and deliver a healthy meal or snack. For ideas and resources from Let's Move! Child Care, follow this link: <http://www.healthykidshealthyfuture.org/content/hkhf/home/nutrition.html>
- Work with your child to create a special remembrance
- Buy something for your provider's play area
- Check to see if your employer provides scholarships for toys, equipment or training that you can sponsor as a parent.



# Parent Education Opportunities

## Family Education & Support Services

### Consider the Children

This 4 hour seminar focuses on strategies to support children who live separately from one or both parents. Call for a current schedule of classes. Cost: \$50 per person. Preregister :1-877-813-2828 or online at [www.FamilyEducationAndSupport.org](http://www.FamilyEducationAndSupport.org)



## HopeSparks

### The Incredible Years Parent Training Program (FREE)

Evidenced Based Program for Parents of Children 2-8 Years Old. TUESDAY evenings beginning in January through May 2012 & THURSDAY mornings beginning in February through June 2012. \*For more information or to register please call Tammy Tangen at 253-565-4484 or visit them online at [www.hopesparks.org](http://www.hopesparks.org)

## Bates Technical College, Home & Family Life Department

Infants & Parents (0-12 months) ~Toddlers & Parents ~Effective Parenting with Positive Discipline—for parents of children ages 2-18 ~Love & Logic Parenting—for parents with children ages 2-18 ~Love & Logic Parenting, SPANISH

Location: Bates South Campus, 2201 S. 78th St, Tacoma

\*For current class schedules and registration call 253-680-7500 or visit them online at [www.bates.ctc.edu/HomeFamily](http://www.bates.ctc.edu/HomeFamily)

## Catholic Community Services 12 week ongoing parenting class \$75 for the series

Thursday evenings, 6 to 7:30pm & Children's program for children ages 2-12 at the same time as parenting class

Thursday daytime classes, 1 to 2:30pm (No children's program or child care during the daytime class)

Pre-register at CCS Office, 1323 S. Yakima Ave, Tacoma 98405

For information and class availability:

Sue Comfort for the evening class at 253-502-2728; 253-502-2678; Lisa Cassino for daytime class at 253-502-2652

## Joint Base Lewis/McChord New Parent Support Program

Classes, support groups, home visiting and other activities to meet the needs of parents and families. Classes and child care are free. Call 253-967-7409 for more information and to request services.

## Family Support Centers in Pierce County

There are Family Support Centers in almost every area of Pierce County. Each Family Support Center can help families to learn about:

~Healthy pregnancy ~How a baby grows ~How a toddler or preschooler grows ~How to help a child learn  
~Parenting skills ~Maternity support services ~Infant case management ~Children with special health care needs

For more information or to find the center closest to you call (253) 798-4608 or (866) 727-6403 or go online to <http://www.tpchd.org/health-wellness-1/pregnancy-parenting/support-parents/>



## Parenting Classes Winter/Spring 2012



All classes are offered to families at no cost and include free childcare  
To register, please call the Puyallup Family Center at 253-845-9177

**Happiest Baby on the Block:**  
Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Bethel Family Support Center: 18020 B Street E., Spanaway  
Expectant parents and parents with infants up to 3 months old  
Class: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Understanding ADHD:**  
Mondays, May 14 & 21, 2012

Pope Elementary: 15102 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E., Puyallup  
Families with children of all ages welcome  
Dinner: 5:30 p.m.; Class: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Relatives Raising Children Support Group:**

Second Wednesday of Every Month  
Good Samaritan Community Services: 325 E. Pioneer Avenue,  
Puyallup  
Relatives Raising Children of all ages  
Group: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Transition to Parenthood:**  
Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Bethel Family Support Center: 18020 B Street E., Spanaway  
Expectant parents and parents of infants and toddlers  
Class: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**A collaborative effort of Good Samaritan Community Services, the Puyallup, Orting and Bethel School Districts, the Council for Children and Families, the Department of Child and Family Services, Pierce County Community Connections – Chemical Dependency Prevention Division, Windermere Foundation, Good Samaritan Foundation, Readiness to Learn, the Family Support Partnership, and all of the wonderful service groups that make our programs possible.**

# May Events



## 2012 Children's Activities



Join us at the Jack and the Beanstalk Garden!  
A place where magical things happen!

Free Children Gardening Programs, no pre-registration required.  
All classes begin at 1:00 pm and are approximately 1.5 hours.



<p>May 5 <b>Becoming Weather Wise</b></p>	<p>Join us as we learn about the weather all around us. We will measure the weather at Jack's House rain or shine. Make your own mini weather station so you can check the weather at your house too!</p>
<p>May 19 <b>Planting a Garden and Using Greenhouses</b></p>	<p>Where is the best spot for your garden? What plants go where? Make a mini-greenhouse and learn how greenhouses help extend our growing season.</p>

Master Gardener Demonstration Garden: 2607 W. Pioneer Way, Puyallup, WA 98371  
Contact Information: 253-798-7180 <http://county.wsu.edu/pierce/mg/pages/default.aspx>



To request this information in an alternative format, please contact Colleen Meyer at 253-591-5352 or TTY: 253-591-5352

