

Checklist for getting, keeping and engaging parents

RELATIONSHIP FACTORS	FULLY	COULD DO MORE
Do parents feel welcomed and valued by staff?		
Do practitioners work within an ethos of partnership with and respect for parents?		
If not, are we supporting them to develop their relationship skills?		

PRACTICAL FACTORS	FULLY	COULD DO MORE
Do we provide adequate childcare facilities?		
Is the service accessible, convenient and welcoming?		
Are services delivered at flexible and convenient times?		
Do parents know about the service?		

CULTURAL AND CONTEXTUAL QUESTIONS	FULLY	COULD DO MORE
Do we take time to find out about personal issues that may affect service uptake such as financial worries, relationship breakdown etc?		
Do we know about issues that could affect a parent's involvement in learning e.g. languages spoken at home, literacy etc?		
Do publicity materials and activities make it clear that all parents are welcome, including fathers and parents from different ethnic backgrounds?		
Are services 'father-friendly' in content and style?		

STRATEGIC QUESTIONS	FULLY	COULD DO MORE
How well do we know our community?		
Do we make persistent and creative efforts in reaching targeted parents?		
Are practitioners trained and skilled in outreach and family engagement?		
Are there different ways parents can access our service? For instance one-to-one home visits as well as joining groups?		

STRUCTURAL QUESTIONS	FULLY	COULD DO MORE
Are sessions informal and fun with lots of hands-on learning?		
Are there opportunities for parents to share ideas and knowledge with each other?		
Are activities and written information for parents accessible for parents with limited literacy or English as an additional language?		