

# Childcare

## and Children's Health

AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS



## Parent-Carer Partnerships: Benefits for Everyone

When you and your child's carer/s have strong respectful relationships, you will learn from each other about your child. Most importantly, your child will have a better experience. Parents and carers bring unique perspectives, skills and knowledge to partnerships and both have responsibilities.

Following are some examples of what to expect from a partnership:

### Communication

- You are encouraged to share information about your child as well as your beliefs, values and what matters to you about your child's experience.
- You are encouraged to ask questions and express concerns, and these are taken on board. There is genuine interest in your views. You and the carer/s make decisions together about your child's experience.
- Every effort is made to overcome language barriers. Written information is available in families' home language and interpreters are used when needed.
- Carers try to be available to talk when parents drop off and pick up children.
- The service has a variety of ways of getting feedback from families – for example questionnaires or surveys.
- Carers show empathy about challenges such as coping with separation, your child's reluctance to leave at the end of the day, worries about no longer being your child's most special person.
- You are not given unwanted or unnecessary advice.
- The service has in place processes for resolving conflicts constructively.

### A sense of community

- You and your child feel welcomed, respected and valued. There are lots of friendly smiles and shared laughs.
- Everyone is told when a new child and family are starting so that they can be welcomed.
- The physical environment reflects the lives, cultures and communities of families.
- There is no evidence of bias, stereotyping or discrimination.
- You are offered a variety of meaningful ways to be involved, but there is not pressure to do so.
- The service has strong links with other agencies and professionals and helps families get additional support when they need it.

### How can parents contribute to parent-carer partnerships?

Communicating about your child is the most important way to contribute to the partnership. You also contribute when you:

- bring respect, good will and commitment to the relationship.
- act responsibly and share information and concerns.
- show that you value the experience, expertise and commitment of your child's carer/s.
- appreciate the complexities and challenges of working in child care.

Partnerships come out of everyday encounters, actions and words. Little things mean a lot!

AN INITIATIVE OF

The **Royal Children's**  
Hospital Melbourne  
Centre for Community Child Health

SUPPORTED BY AN  
EDUCATIONAL GRANT FROM

**Johnson & Johnson**  
PROFESSIONAL & EDUCATIONAL SERVICES  
**Health Care for Life**

SUPPORTED BY THE  
NATIONAL CHILDCARE  
ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

**Putting  
Children  
First**  
NCAC  
National Childcare Accreditation Council

SUPPORTED BY  
THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES,  
HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES  
AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS