



# Working Together with Parents and Families

*"Parents and carers are the biggest influence on a child's development, particularly in the early years. Staff and parents sharing information is key to the best possible start for children" (Curriculum for Excellence).*


In order to achieve the maximum support for young children parents and staff often work together to offer mutual support at home or in the establishment. This involves providing opportunities to consult with each other and share information about the child's progress and development which may include an 'All About Me Booklet'.

Parents should be involved in the induction process prior to entry and in the settling in period. There may be times when children need extra support and parents and staff will work in partnership to support the child.

## Toilet Training

Pre school education provision is supporting and developing a child's education. It is the government's view that this more structured support and development of education is most appropriately available post three years of age. When a child attains the age of three and is eligible for pre school education provision, it is anticipated that most children will be toilet trained and able to cope with an education setting.

However, it is recognised that some children may not develop as quickly as others and in these cases practical help will be required. Preschool staff should support parents in working with Health colleagues with Toilet Training. It should be noted that pre school education establishments will not carry a supply of disposable nappies.



# Working Together with Parents and Families (cont'd)

The suggested procedure for heads of establishments to follow in the case of children who are not fully toilet trained is:

- Talk to parents to ascertain their view of their child's toilet needs.
- Obtain parental agreement to contact the Health Visitor or General Practitioner for background information, if necessary.
- If problems are identified within the family the Health Visitor can begin to address the situation and if necessary involvement with the preschool education establishment in line with the *Getting it Right for Every Child* agenda.
- If medical problem or special need is established then additional support may be offered to the family/unit.
- Advise your helpline contact of issues as you progress them.

Should a child require to be changed, the following should be considered

## Setting the climate for intimate care

**Please refer to the Care Inspectorate Guidance: Nappy Changing Facilities in Early Years, Nurseries and large Childminding Services**

Treat every child as an individual and listen to his or her preferences and choices. Care should be given gently and with due regard for personal dignity:

- Some services do not have purpose built changing facilities so discussions should be held at the start of each session of the most appropriate setting for changing to take place should it be required
- Create a climate of dignity and respect in all relationships in the setting
- Develop practical routines for personal care so that staff, parents and the children know what to expect (*Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings September 2015*).
- Allow the child, wherever possible, to express a preference regarding/to choose his/ her carer
- Refer to services Child Protection and Adult Protection Procedures and Guidance
- Discuss with Parent/ carer at the end of the session

Should you wish to discuss issues of personal care please contact Alison MacKenzie, Principal Officer Early Years [alison.mackenzie@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:alison.mackenzie@argyll-bute.gov.uk)