

**Lesson
No 18**

**Involvement of
Parents and Community**

SUMMARY

Development of young children takes place in different atmospheres such as at home where they are surrounded by their parents, grandparents and other family members. The formal, friendly atmosphere of the community and the first ladder of learning i.e. ECCE centre or preschool are also important learning theatres for them. A well-coordinated quality partnership between the school and the parents and good communication between both during ECCE and early primary years is very important.

In this lesson, you learnt about involvement of parents and community in the functioning of an ECCE centre.

DEFINING PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- In ECCE, we talk about two very important components. The first one is ‘parents are supporters in their children’s early education and care’. The second is parents are active partners in their children’s early learning. They are the primary source of influence in their children’s lives. Parents involvement includes
- Helping parents to establish a stress-free, harmonious home environment that help children flourish freely and learn without fear.
- Encouraging parents to volunteer and help the child during cultural programmes and theme-based project or activity
- Keeping the communication channels open between home and preschool and encouraging exchanges of children’s activities. This two-way communication is essential for children’s overall development as it helps to know the children better.

DEFINING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Involving community means identifying the resources from the community and then utilizing the same to strengthen the preschool programme and a young child’s learning.

WHY DO WE NEED PARENTS AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS ?

- Parents need to be involved as partners in their children’s education because parents know how their children behave at home, learn at home and bond with their extended family.
- In practical terms, the quality partnership means the preschool teachers and staff need to respect the knowledge and understanding that parents have of their children. Parents should acknowledge that preschool teachers know about their children and their development.
- Children develop in the warmth of their families and communities that are characterized by diversity in family composition, languages spoken, their own religious belief systems and cultural practices. Hence, Families serve as the primary context for their children’s development.
- Resources from parents and the community are essential for creating an emotionally supportive environment in which children develop optimally. When teachers have

knowledge about the needs and background of all her/his children in preschool, it becomes easier to provide ECCE programme in a more organised manner.

- Communities that adequately support parenting as well as early childhood education at the right time, contribute significantly to the quality of life of all people in the community
- Therefore, it becomes important for preschool and primary teachers to guide and educate the community in general and parents in particular and to bring about awareness of the advantages of quality early childhood care and education.

BENIFITS OF PARENTS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Children Benefit When:

- Teachers understand and respect the family regardless of family structure, religious beliefs, languages spoken at home, socio-economic status and educational level of family members.
- Parents provide appropriate and correct information to teachers.
- Parents update teachers about any significant changes in the child’s home environment that may hinder their children’s learning.

Parents Benefit When:

- They are encouraged to take interest in the work of the preschool/ ECCE centre and engage themselves as partners in their children’s learning
- They are adequately prepared to understand child-rearing practices.
- They understand there should be continuity and strong linkages between the transition from home to preschool and from preschool to primary.

Preschool Programme Benefit When:

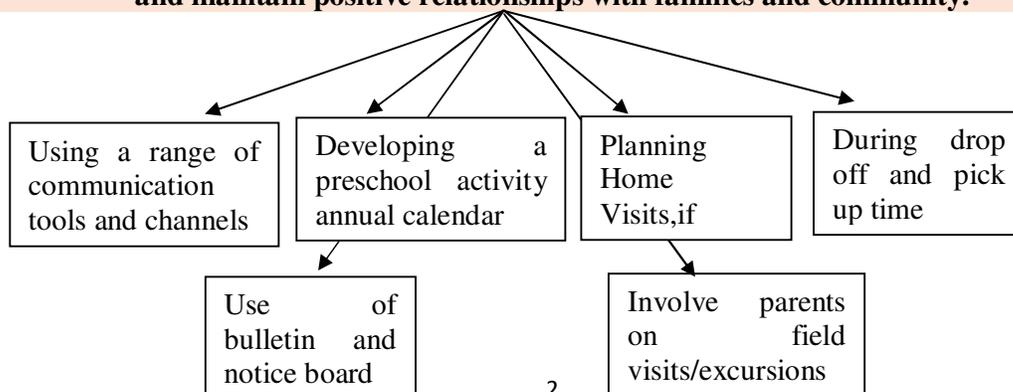
- ECCE centre/preschool does not exist in isolation.
- Teachers collaborate with family and community members by giving and receiving appropriate information.
- Practitioners know and use a variety of formal and informal communication strategies.
- Practitioners use opportunities for professional development and training.
- Practitioners try to learn about the different backgrounds of the children

WAYS OF EFFECTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS AND COMMUNITY IN FUNCTIONING OF AN ECCE CENTRE /PRESCHOOL

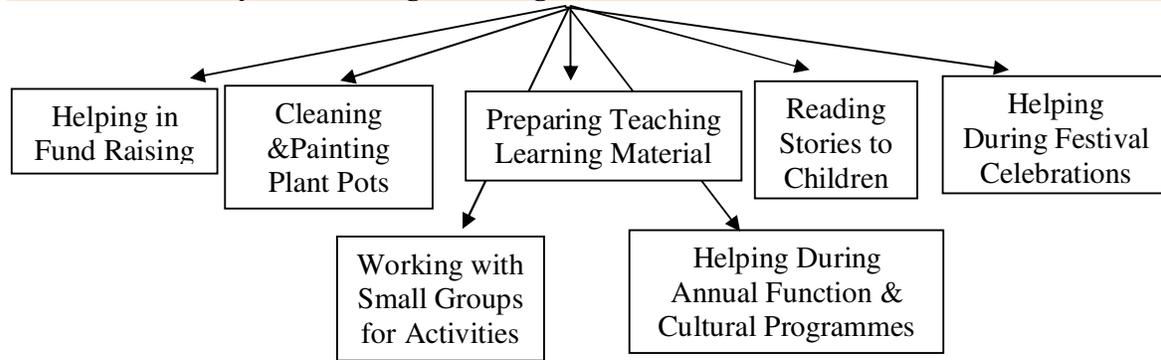
COMMUNICATION

Collaboration with family and community members to solve developmental problems if any, by giving and receiving appropriate information.

Formal and Informal strategies of communicating to parents and community to establish and maintain positive relationships with families and community.



Ways and Strategies through which Parents Can Be Involved



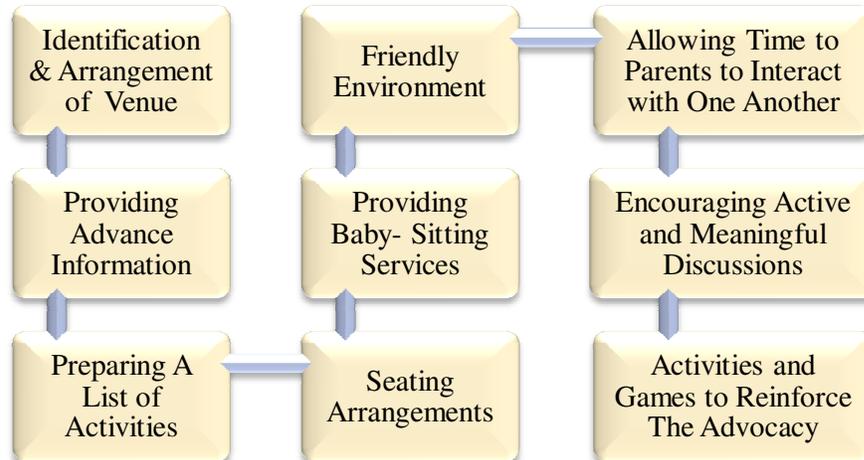
COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

- To ensure community ownership and participation in the smooth functioning and success of the ECCE centre, points need to be considered are as follows:
- To win the trust of the community to ask for help.
- To generate and maintain contact with the relevant health professionals
- To provide ECCE centre/preschool facilities for community use
- To involve village Sarpanch and community members in doing certain things or the ECCE centers
- To organize a 'Fixed Monthly ECCE Day' at the ECCE centre
- To organize activities for advocacy, spread awareness involvement of parents and community

KEY FEATURES OF SOUND PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRES AND PARENTS

- To acknowledge Parents' role in their child's early education
- To recognize role played by parents in early education of their child
- To welcome Parents in the preschool
- To provide access to information about ECCE programmes
- To recognize expertise of parents and other adults in the family to support the learning opportunities provided within the preschool
- To provide regular information of their child's progress and growth;
- To make them (Parents and Children) feel secure in the new setting
- To provide opportunities for learning provided through parent conferences, parents' workshops, parents' resource centre, etc.

STEPS TO ORGANISE A SUCCESSFUL PARENT TEACHER MEETING/ PARENT CONFERENCE



ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED WITH PARENTS AND COMMUNITY ON FIXED ECCE DAY OR DURING PARENT EDUCATION CONFERENCE



EVALUATE YOURSELF

- Q1.** Explain in your own words the importance and contribution of parents in the functioning of an ECCE centre.
- Q2.** Explain in your own words the importance and contribution of community in the functioning of an ECCE centre.

PRACTICE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Plan an activity to create awareness among parents and community about importance of early childhood care and education.