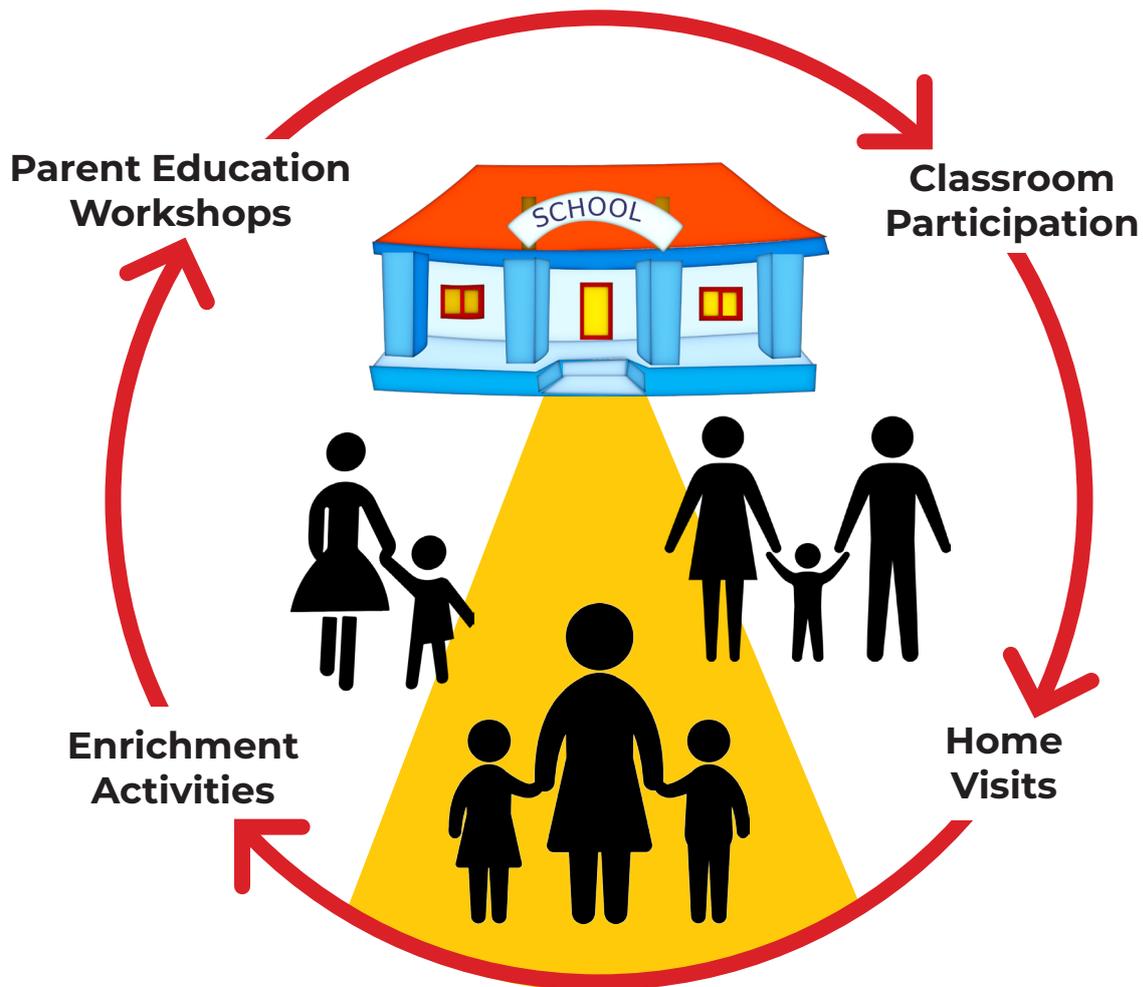


BEST PRACTICE 3

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY IN CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

Families have a very powerful effect on the developing child, impacting their attitudes, beliefs, opportunities, habits, and personality traits. The family plays a critical role in determining who a child becomes and what he or she accomplishes.



The Role of the Family in Child Development

A child's learning and socialization are most influenced as previously mentioned by their family since the family is the child's primary social group. Child development happens physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually during this time.

Family is the single most important influence in a child's life. From their first moments of life, children depend on parents and family to protect them and provide for their needs. Every parent knows that it's sometimes difficult to do this important work without help, support, and additional resources.

Family is important because it provides love, support and a framework of values to each of its members. Family members teach each other, serve one another and share life's joys and sorrows.

Traditional family values are important because they share in loyalty, duty, respect and perseverance that contribute to a sense of safety and comfort, both between the spouses and with the children.

Family time is important because you need to develop ties and bond with your family. Spending family time together ensures that a deep, strong, family bond develops.

Family members are often close and feel they can depend on one another for caring guidance and support. Whether it's grandparents, aunts and uncles or even close friends who make up a family, what is important is the love or common interests that bind them together.

The role of socialization is to acquaint individuals with the norms of a given social group or society. Socialization is very important for children, it begins at home with family, and continues at school. They are taught what will be expected of them as they mature and become full members of society.

The primary function of the family is to ensure the continuation of society, both biologically through procreation, and socially through socialization. Given these functions, the nature of one's role in the family changes over time.

Parents should be aware that not only do their own emotions and parenting style affect the emotional outcomes of their children, but if they are not aware of how their children's tempers affect them, they could fall into a spiral of ineffective and indifferent parenting which further contributes to negative behaviour.

A successful partnership is based on mutual respect and trust and acceptance, and we need to spend time building relationships, until family members accept us and feel confident and comfortable to share with us.

Strategies to Building Good Relationships

- Helping families build on their strengths and experiences
- Believing that each family comes with its own strengths
- Getting to know the family – talking to them about their lives and finding out what is important to them and why it is important to them
- Allowing families to take the initiative and contribute their ideas
- Being flexible and recognising that there are different ways to solve problems
- Being confident and trusting in decisions made by family members
- Relating to the family as people in a way that is comfortable for them
- Working together and sharing information: family members will learn more about their children and be able to develop their skills in caring for and educating their children
- Learning more about each other to respond to the individual needs and interests

Sharing Information to Strengthen Partnerships (Families and Staff)

The table below demonstrate what families and the Educator can share information on pertaining to a) the child and family and b) the ECD Programme. The shared information can be used to set new goals and plan ways to encourage the child's development both at home and at school.

THE CHILD AND FAMILY	THE PROGRAMME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The child's interests, likes and dislikes • Child's strengths • Child's accomplishments • Home experiences • Daily routines • Health and diet • Food and diet • Attitudes towards behaviour management • Family goals • Culture and language • The community in which they live • People important to the child • Parenting practices • How families want to be involved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How children develop and learn • How the daily programme encouraged growth and development • How the programme supports the culture, traditions and family values • Child's progress • Activities that families can do at home with their children that follow through on the programme • Ongoing progress • Resources and services available • Family involvement opportunities

Capacity Building Activities

Involving the family in various activities within the child's learning environment will make them feel important and included.

Some guidelines on how to include families are:

- Make the classroom a welcoming place for family members
- Greet them in a friendly way when they bring or fetch their children
- Encourage them to stay for a while and experience first-hand how their children are spending their time
- Explain how the programme is meeting their children's developmental needs and interests
- Discuss things that family members can do at home to follow through with their learning
- Display pictures of children's artwork
- Put up pictures of daily activities that take place
- Display posters and pictures that represent diversity and inclusion
- Invite families to come and share stories of their cultures and traditions with the children
- Invite families to send story books to school about their cultural backgrounds and traditions.
- Invite families to come and demonstrate any art or craft skills they may have.
- Invite the parents to come and sing songs with the children and teach the children traditional dances.