

Inclusive Practice

SLC 6 - Literacy – Engaging Parents



Please note: the SLC cards should be worked through in order from cards 1 – 6

We must not overlook the impact of parent's contribution to a child's early literacy skills. Introducing children to different kinds of literature and opportunities to explore their early writing skills in way that is age/stage appropriate can be an excellent way for parents to engage their children.

Have a think

How do you support parents in understanding the impact of their input on a child's development?

Is there more that you could do to engage parents and promote a deeper understanding of what early literacy skills look like in reality?

Are we encouraging parents to practise handwriting with their child for the sake of improving penmanship? No.

Are we encouraging them to see the value of supporting children to develop a love for books and stories, allowing them to make marks in the garden on the path with chalks, involving them in creating and 'reading' the shopping list whilst at the supermarket, supporting them to see that the words in their birthday card are a special message just for them, playing a game of I spy whilst sitting on the bus into town etc. ABSOLUTELY.

Do you have a shared understanding as a team of what best practice looks like?

TASK 1

Think about how you can share some key messages or top tips with parents and carers about how they can and already do support their child's early literacy skills. (Are your families aware that they can make the most of their local libraries? Do you have any information you can sign post them to?)

Work individually or as a team to think of 3 ways to engage parents. Remember, we need to work in partnership to offer age and stage appropriate opportunities for children. Let's destroy the myths that being school ready translates to reciting the alphabet and knowing how to write their name.

TASK 2

Create 'play parcels' that can be given to parents to take home. Give consideration as to how the parents can use the play parcel to support their child's development. Be sure to include some top tips and a little information on how the activity and resources included is targeted towards play and learning, the value and impact of taking the time to use it.

Suggestion for a play parcel:

- Gather a couple of silk dancing scarves and a laminated action song list.
- Pop in a post card that references how the development of gross motor control, encourages muscle isolation, a skill needed later for pencil control.

Learning to write activities is a short video from Help for Early Years providers that will provide you with more ideas.

- <https://youtu.be/tKwruceavN0>