11. Partnership with Parents Policy

Policy Statement
Links Childcare gives parents and families opportunities to share, get involved and make suggestions about all the activities happening in our crèche. Families are the most important people in a child’s life and we are committed to being open, inclusive, welcoming, accepting, and respectful of all family types. As a partnership we ask families to show respect for all staff, children and families in return.

Procedure
We aim to create positive partnership with parents by providing them with the following communication and information:

- Viewings for all parents interested in using the service
- Settling in period for; baby, wobbler, toddler children & full day pre-school children
- Parent Handbook
- Open-door policy
- Crèche policies and procedures display on www.linkschildcare.ie
- Daily handover upon collection of the child
- Rooms fitted with phones, parents are invited to contact the Educarers during the day should they wish to check in on the child
- Crèche newsletters
- Notice board with crèche updates
- Welcome parents to become involved in the services events, fundraisers and curriculum
- Pre-School parent teacher meetings for parents of children starting primary school in the months preceding September start date
- Graduation ceremony for pre-school children in June/July prior to the commencement of primary school
- The medium-term curriculum plan is shared with parents at the start of every month and comments and observations are invited. Likewise, the short term curriculum is on display for parents in every room and again parents are invited to contribute to every stage of the planning.
- Many opportunities for formal and informal conversations with both staff and crèche manager
- Value and appreciate any information on family customs, belief, language and culture are supported and included at the service and are mentioned in every Medium Term planning curriculum.
- Families are welcomed to share information about their child’s interests and experiences outside of the setting
- Families are included in decision making about their child’s day at the setting.
- Family photos and other aspects of children’s home life are incorporated into the environment and the curriculum.
- The Educarers consult with the parents prior to the child’s transition from room to room.
- The Educarers consult with parents about school placements for the child. Then, links are made with those primary schools to ensure smooth transitions for all children. An invitation is made to the primary school teachers from the local schools to visit the children in the preschool prior to their first day in September. All staff will work cooperatively with the teachers to design an appropriate plan.

Review: Management, in consultation with staff, monitors and reviews the effectiveness of this policy yearly or as required.