

SEMINAR EVALUATION
Granby Early Childhood Council

Date: January 8, 2008

Topic: Communicating Goals with Families

Summary of all Comments Received:

During this workshop session, I learned:

- about the importance of open, continual communication with families
- characteristics of good/bad teachers and parents are similar
- The importance of good communication
- to communicate facts to the parents/families.

The most useful part of today's training session for me was:

- creating charts of positive and negative parents/teachers
- reminders about curbing the tendency to criticize (there can always be a reason behind something)
- don't be afraid to persevere with parent communication for the sake of the student
- Hearing other providers/teachers stories of situations they have had in their careers.

Here is what I plan to do in my classroom as a result of today's training:

- Be very aware of tonight's training in upcoming conferences
- don't be afraid to persevere with parent communication for the sake of the student
- continue to use my daily sheets to communicate with the families.

I still have questions or concerns about:

- It wasn't what I was expecting. The flyer sent home from Kearns talked about what sort of communication parents want from teachers. I was expecting more of a dialog about the gaps that exist between what happens now and what we'd want to see in the ideal. Not just a reminder that any communication needs to be respectful and open-minded.

I would like to share with the trainer the following suggestions/comments:

- I feel I got the most out of this session than from any other. The hour and a half was over so quickly. I felt the interaction between the people in attendance was so valuable. Hearing that I'm not alone in these sensitive situations was comforting.
- the workshop trainers do an excellent job. They're great presenters, clearly know their subject, and clearly have passion for what they do. The handouts, tools, and lessons have been great.
- she hit the nail on the head when she said every parent wants to know if a teacher likes my child, is my child normal and do you "get" my child.
- The training sessions have obviously been heavily oriented toward preschool teachers and I totally understand that. But I need to let you know that I'm struggling with whether I should continue to attend either the training sessions or the monthly meetings. Both are heavily attended by - and directed toward - providers. As a parent, I often feel like a bystander.
- This was the best workshop yet!

- What about something that has to do with how to motivate our children/students, how to praise them to get them to do their best and to build self confidence, how to get them to open up when they have a problem, how to build trust, those kinds of things. I want to know that my preschool and public schools know how to really relate to my children. I also want to know that they are aware of the CT Framework and are meeting the standards, but just as important, I want to know that the schools and I can understand my children's needs and be a resource for them to come to for love, emotional strength and information.