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Parents' experiences

Family Action is supporting school-based providers to engage parents and carers in the design and delivery of childcare that is inclusive for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).



Engaging with and involving parents

The Project Leaders are working with their target settings to ensure that parents/carers have an opportunity to:

- receive ongoing support and advice (eg arranging for the SENCO to attend a regular drop in event/coffee morning for parents/carers; lending resources to parents/carers to use at home)
- provide feedback on the existing provision (eg through a suggestions' box/feedback book)
- offer suggestions for making the setting more inclusive for children with SEND (eg through a paper/online survey)
- be fully engaged in the development of more inclusive childcare practices (eg join a parent focus group; become a governor or committee member for the setting; volunteer in the setting)
- receive training, where possible (eg join training at the setting on behaviour management).

With the support of their Project Leader, settings have encouraged parents/carers to speak about their experiences of accessing childcare, for instance:

- some settings have compiled case studies about individual families' experiences of accessing childcare over a period of time
- others have been filming interviews with parents/carers about their experiences.

Each setting has agreed with the parents/carers involved:

- where the interview/case study will be used (eg on website)
- how their consent will be requested (eg via a signed consent form)

- how the information they give will be used (eg form part of the setting's action plan for developing inclusion)
- how the interview/case study will be followed up (eg further meeting where the setting explains what has been done as a result of the initial interview/case study and what will happen in the future).

Further information

- Family Action is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) to support school-based childcare providers with developing high-quality and inclusive childcare for 0-5s with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Find out more about the project, and download a wide range of free resources from: www.learning-exchange.org.uk
- Our Learning Exchange Facebook page gives links to events, suppliers, equipment, training and venues that might be of interest to school-based childcare providers: www.facebook.com/pages/Learning-Exchange/904749822892733?sk=timeline

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