

Curriculum Framework on Parent Education (Kindergarten)

Parents' Communication Skills in Home-school Co-operation

Notes for Parents

1. Significance of Home-school Co-operation

Parents and schools develop mutual trust and respect, and work together to promote the well-being of children.

2. Roles of Schools and Parents in Home-school Co-operation

2.1 **Schools** provide parents with the following:

- The education provided to their children;
- The child's performance at school and how this is assessed;
- Other matters related to the educational development of their children.

2.2 As **partners** of the school, parents should

- assist the children to learn, and play an active role in the education of their children;
- understand the needs of their children and play an active role in helping the school to interpret the expectations of the public;
- show an active interest in the children's schooling;
- participate in the activities and consultation related to the learning of their children;
- co-operate with the school and other parents in the interests of their children's learning;
- be aware of their rights and responsibilities in relation to the education of their child and how those rights and responsibilities are reflected in the policies and practices of the school;
- be supportive of the school policies;
- assist the school in the implementation of the curriculum and provide opinions regarding the planning and implementation of the curriculum, which facilitates the sustainable development of the school; and
- provide opinions and suggestions for school improvement.



Parents are close partners and important resources of schools. It is of prime importance to establish mutual trust between schools and parents.

Sources:

- Education Bureau (2017). Kindergarten Education Curriculum Guide, pp. 95.
- Education Bureau Website. Role of parents. Retrieved from <https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/student-parents/ncs-students/support-to-parents-and-students/role-of-parents.html>

2.3 As **co-decision makers** of schools

- Parents could put forward views about what the school is doing and make suggestions on how it should be run.

2.4 As **educators** at home

- Parents should provide basic care and guidance towards the good behaviour and general development of their children.
- Parents should keep school staff informed of their children's progress and significant events that may affect their children's learning.

3. Home-school Co-operation and Effective communication

3.1 Definition of “communication”

- It is a process of understanding.
- It is continuous.
- Every communication is unique and special.
- It is affected by cultural factors and changes over time.
- Modes of exchange matters.
- It can enhance child development.

3.2 Purposes of home-school communication

- For children’s interest: Many studies found that higher parental involvement in children’s learning results in higher learning effectiveness.
- Changes in parents’ rights: They have rights to vote and can negotiate with schools.
- Parents are partners of schools.
- Parents can enhance school quality.
- Increase transparency and develop trust.

3.3 Psychological status

I’m OK – You’re OK.

I’m OK – You’re not OK.

I’m not OK – You’re OK.

I’m not OK – You’re not OK.

3.4 Important principles of home-school communication

- Achieve goals together and build up co-operations
- Mutual respect and listening are necessary
- Be truthful and positive
- Make good use of body language
- Pay attention to others' body language and facial expressions
- Make use of commonly understandable language
- Allow others to understand your views

3.5 Dos and Don'ts of communication – **Don'ts (✘)**

- ✘ Swayed by emotions; ✓ Avoid conflicts
- ✘ Be judgmental; ✓ Save face for others
- ✘ Be commanding
- ✘ Interrupt others
- ✘ React too strongly
- ✘ Rush to judgement

3.6 Dos and Don'ts of communication – **Dos (✓)**

- ✓ Praise others
- ✓ Be proactive
- ✓ Be friendly and keep smiling
- ✓ Listen to others
- ✓ Prefer a quiet environment
- ✓ Let others feel that it is possible to change even in the worst situation
- ✓ Build relationship as soon as possible

3.7 Tips for building better relationship with schools

- i. Parents say hello to teachers when they bring their child to the school.
- ii. Tell teachers about the child's performance at home, especially his/her habits and health conditions.
- iii. Parents can share their own parenting ideas and experience with teachers.
- iv. Actively solve problems and tackle misunderstandings.
- v. Participate more in school activities.
- vi. Join the parent network organised by the school.
- vii. Read information from the school's parent groups, notice board or newsletters, and return reply slips to the school on time.
- viii. Welcome phone calls or visits from teachers.
- ix. Teach children to express gratitude to teachers, and parents should act as role models.