

## Children's Centres

Approach	How parents / carers have a voice and influence	What works well	Challenges faced
<p>Consultation events on a monthly cycle.</p> <p>Solution focussed Approach</p> <p>Discussion at Advisory meetings ensures parent's feed in their views and comments regarding the provision.</p> <p>Listening and Responding Appropriately.</p> <p>Value the contribution good or not so good.</p>	<p><b>Parent's views and consultations are fed into planning for the services.</b></p> <p>For example at a recent meeting parents were asked to approve an outdoor play policy. As a result of reading the policy parents told us they did not feel children played outside enough in the fresh air and questioned why this was not enforceable like sitting down for lunch.</p> <p>Parents saw the benefit of the outdoor provision but felt some of the children did not fully utilise it.</p> <p>The centres took this on board and undertook a consultation with other parents in the centres ensuring all views were collected.</p> <p>Data and feedback on the consultation were provided to parents in the Advisory meeting.</p> <p>The children were also involved in this consultation, with the older children taking part in a tallying event every time they went outside to play.</p> <p>The children drew pictures of their outdoor experiences and photographs of children were also taken.</p> <p>A display was provided in the centre to promote the benefits of the outdoor environments.</p> <p>The parents representatives at the meeting were able to scrutinise the information and look at the evidence presented.</p> <p>The parents were able to question and challenge and tasked Managers to further promote outdoor play in the setting ensuring that "All" children and not "MOST" were spending time in the outdoor environment during the course of the day.</p> <p>Parents asked for on-going feedback of this initiative at future meetings.</p>	<p>Respect and Listening to the voice of parents and carers.</p> <p>Acting on their ideas and suggestions wherever this is possible.</p> <p>Consulting on the things that are important to them.</p> <p>Ensuring their responses are fed back to others "You said, we did" approach.</p> <p>A warm and friendly approach.</p> <p>Open, honest and transparent approach.</p>	<p>Balancing parental expectations against a professional approach and a framework for Inspection can sometimes be a challenge. This can often be worked through with a sensitive approach.</p>