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**Rationale**

At Little Pandas Nursery, we recognize the vital role that parents and guardians play in their child’s development and learning. Our goal is to foster a strong partnership with families to enhance the nursery experience and support each child's growth. This policy outlines our approach to engaging with parents and guardians, sharing information, and collaborating to support each child's development, in alignment with the principles of the Pre-Birth to Three framework and Curriculum for Excellence.

**Objectives**

* **Foster Collaboration:** Build strong partnerships with parents and guardians to support the holistic development of each child.
* **Enhance Communication:** Ensure parents are kept well-informed about their child's progress, nursery updates, and opportunities for involvement.
* **Promote Engagement:** Encourage active participation of parents in their child's learning and development both at the nursery and at home.
* **Support Development:** Utilize feedback from parents to enhance the nursery environment and educational practices.

**Framework/Legislation**

**Pre-Birth to Three: Positive Outcomes for Scotland’s Children and Families**

* + Provides guidelines on supporting the development of children from birth to three years, emphasizing the importance of partnerships between parents and early years providers.

**Curriculum for Excellence**

* + Outlines the educational framework for children from three to eighteen years, promoting a broad and balanced curriculum that supports children’s development through various learning experiences.

**Children (Scotland) Act 1995**

* + Mandates the involvement of parents in the care and education of their children.

**The Scottish Government’s Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Framework**

* + Provides overarching guidelines for early learning settings, including fostering effective partnerships with parents.

**Policy**

**Keeping Parents Informed:**

* + **Famly Messaging:** Use WhatsApp to provide timely updates and keep parents engaged with nursery news and information.
  + **Daily Discussions:** Engage in day-to-day conversations with parents to exchange information about their child’s activities and needs.
  + **Regular Assessments:** Share regular summative assessments and track progress using the Pre-Birth to Three development tracker.
  + **Email Updates:** Provide updates on nursery life and changes to operational procedures through email.
  + **Nursery Tours:** Offer tours for families to view the nursery and meet the staff.
  + **Parents night:** An evening event where parents meet with keyworkers to discuss their child's progress, development, and any concerns or updates.
  + **Report cards:** Written evaluations that provide parents with a summary of their child's progress, achievements, and areas for improvement over a specific period.

**Parent and Keyworker Meetings:**

* + **Daily Interaction:** Encourage daily communication with keyworkers to discuss the child's development and any immediate concerns.
  + **Scheduled Meetings:** Arrange regular parent/keyworker meetings to review development, achievements, and next steps. Parents are invited to contribute to their child's care plans and provide feedback.

**Stay and Play Sessions:**

* + **Parental Participation:** Invite parents to "Stay and Play" sessions to observe their child’s daily activities and interact with staff.

**Planning and Curriculum Communication:**

* + **Viewing Planning Boards:** Encourage parents to view planning boards and follow updates on Facebook and other communication channels.
  + **Information Sharing:** Keep parents informed about planning and current learning through newsletters, texts, email, and wall displays.

**Home-Links:**

* + **Resource Support:** Send home resources like library books and story bags, and encourage discussions about these materials. Request that items be returned in good condition for continued use.

**Wider Achievements:**

* + **Celebrating Success:** Invite parents to share their child’s wider achievements, such as new skills or milestones. Celebrate these achievements within the nursery to build children’s confidence and strengthen relationships with families.

**Children's Learning:**

* + **Experiential Learning:** Provide a curriculum that supports children in making sense of their world through sensory exploration and experiential learning. Ensure that activities cover a broad range of topics and cater to individual progress and interests.
  + **Curriculum Coverage:** Address a wide array of subjects including cultures, environments, and everyday concepts, aligned with Curriculum for Excellence outcomes.

**Supporting Learning at Home:**

* + **Talking and Listening:** Encourage regular conversations with your child and practice listening and talking skills.
  + **Movement and Coordination:** Engage in activities that support physical development and hand control, such as clapping rhythms and playing with various materials.
  + **Reading:** Promote positive reading experiences and provide a variety of reading materials.
  + **Social Skills:** Support the development of turn-taking, following instructions, and independence through daily activities and play.

**Engagement Opportunities:**

* + **Events and Workshops:** Participate in events and workshops organized by the nursery to gain additional insights and ideas for supporting your child’s learning at home.

**Linking with Our ELC Policies**

* **Child Protection Policy:** Ensures that all interactions with parents and guardians are conducted with a focus on safeguarding and child protection.
* **Curriculum Planning Policy:** Aligns with this policy by integrating parental feedback into curriculum planning and development.
* **Health and Safety Policy:** Supports this policy by maintaining a safe environment for all parental involvement activities.
* **Supervision of Children Policy:** Ensures that parental engagement does not impact the effective supervision and safety of children.

By adhering to this policy, Little Pandas Nursery aims to build strong partnerships with parents, support children's development through collaborative efforts, and provide a nurturing environment that promotes learning and growth. Regular review and feedback will ensure that our practices remain effective and responsive to the needs of our children and their families.

**Created by:** Jennifer McNaughton **Created on:** 9th June 2022

**Reviewed by:** Jennifer McNaughton **Reviewed on:** 12th August 2024