



Factsheet for Families

Participating in your child care service

Most child care services offer families a range of opportunities to participate in, and contribute to, their child's service. For families that it suits, being involved in some of the activities that are offered by your service can have many benefits. However, while your service may encourage you to be involved, you should not feel obligated to participate. Every family has different needs and priorities, and your service should accept that you may be either unable or unwilling to participate.

What types of participation opportunities may your child care service be able to offer you?

Family involvement activities may include:

- Involvement in a management or parent advisory committee
- Working bees for activities such as maintenance and gardening
- Taking part in policy development and/or review
- Fundraising activities
- Organising projects and events
- Donating supplies and materials
- Sharing skills or interests with children
- Helping out on excursions
- Attending and/or organising social events
- Attending information evenings.

What are the benefits for you when you participate in activities at your child care service?

Being involved in your service can:

- Help to strengthen and build relationships with the professionals who care for your child in relaxed, informal situations
- Increase your understanding of how the service operates and what happens each day
- Help you to get to know other families and children at the service
- Give you opportunities to see your child in the child care setting
- Increase your opportunities to contribute to the service's activities and projects.

Top tips for participating in your child care service:

- Tell your service about ways that you would like to be involved or contribute
- Remember that you and your child should always experience positive relationships with the professionals at your service, regardless of the type or level of involvement you choose to have.
- Never feel that you *have* to be involved in your service. It is up to you to decide how, when and how much you want to participate.
- Your ability or choice to be involved may change over time and your service needs to be understanding of this

Our service is currently seeking family participation in the following:

To discuss family participation at our service, or to suggest ways you would like to be involved, please speak to:

or telephone: