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BAPTIST CHURCH

Early Learning Center

Inspired Teaching & Purposeful Play

Goals for the Week

- Fellowship & Team Building
- Vision, Why
- New Ideas & Practical Applications



Today's Agenda

- Vision for the ELC
- Teacher Expectations
- Building Parent Partnerships

Vision for the ELC



Our Ministry

- UBC Key Convictions
 - Families Valued - Partnerships with parents
 - A Loving Community - ALL Families, ESL
 - Gospel-Centered - Bible curriculum
 - Biblically-Guided
- Inspired Teaching & Purposeful Play

Inspired Teaching

- ◉ Inspired by God through Bible study and prayer
- ◉ Inspired by the children, getting to know them and their interests



Purposeful Play

- Enriching environment
- Opportunities for exploration
- Practical life skills
- Lesson planning



Your Vision

- What are your big ideas for the ELC?
- What do you want our students to be able to do by the time they leave our school?
- What are some traditions we'd like to establish?



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Teacher Expectations



Teacher Expectations

- Job Description
- Teacher Handbook
- Discipline Policy



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Lunch Break

Return at 12:30

Introductions

- Name and where you grew up
- Why are you doing this? Why is it important?
- An interesting fact about yourself



"You can pay people to teach, but
you can't pay them to care."

-Marva Collins

The Importance of Family-Teacher Partnerships

It's ALL About
Relationships!



How Do Children Benefit?

- Children's emotional environment is conducive to learning.

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How Do Families Benefit?

- Families can receive receive acknowledgment for the important yet sometimes invisible work they do as their children's first teachers.

How Do Families Benefit?

- Parents have a sounding board, support, and referrals to resources they need when they feel challenged.

How Do Families Benefit?

- Parents can share their child's joys and accomplishments as well as struggles and sorrows with teachers who care deeply about their children.

How Do Families Benefit?

- When parents have a trusting and respectful relationship with their children's teachers they can leave their children in care with the feeling of confidence and security.

How Do Families Benefit?

- These essential, readily, and regularly available relationships help break the isolation some parents feel by offering them to partner in the care and education of their children.

How Do Teachers Benefit?

- Engaging in dialogue with parents offers educators new perspectives on children, families, and the teaching & learning process.

How Do Teachers Benefit?

- Partnerships with families provide opportunities for parents to learn about, acknowledge, and appreciate the significant work teachers do with children.

How Do Teachers Benefit?

- When parents share their knowledge of their children and family you can understand children and families better. This understanding helps you develop a program and curriculum that better meets the needs of each child and gives you a wonderful sense of job satisfaction.

How Do Teachers Benefit?

- Facing challenges in your relationships with parents helps deepen your connection and trust with them. When you solve difficult issues with families, you become less afraid and find it easier and more enjoyable to interact with those families.

How Do Teachers Benefit?

- Families can provide crucial resources to the program through their ideas, perspective, expertise, materials, volunteer energy, and community connections.

Keys to Successful Partnerships

- Recognize and respect one another's knowledge and expertise
- Share information through two-way communication
- Share power and decision-making
- Acknowledge and respect diversity
- Create networks for support

Family Information Sheet

- To communicate a willingness to partner with families
- To gather pertinent information about families, acknowledging parents as experts about their child
- To open up two-way communication with families



What to Ask

- Questions that will
 - help you understand the family and child better
 - give you information to run your classroom more effectively
 - provide you with opportunities to partner with families during the year
- Look at the example provided for inspiration - add and subtract

Implementation

- Present the questionnaire with sincerity
- When will you hand it out?
- How will you follow-up?
- What will you do if parents don't fill it out?
- What will you do with the information you gather?
- What will your actions communicate to families?
- Provide copies to Marilyn and April

Student or Parent Letter

- To ease the transition between home and school
- To show you care about the child and their family
- To tell about the child's new classroom and what to expect
- To make the child feel special



What to Write

- ◉ Welcome the student or parent
- ◉ Introduce yourself and express how glad you are to be teaching the child
- ◉ Tell about the new classroom and how fun it will be
- ◉ Let the student/parent know what they need to bring to school each day
- ◉ Invite them to meet the teacher & make a special request



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