



Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots

WI Hall, Station Road, Copmanthorpe, YO23 3SX

Member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance

Registered charity number 1035584

Ofsted number 321619

Partnership

Parental involvement

Policy Statement

At Panda Playgroup we believe that children benefit most from early years education and care when parents and settings work together in partnership.

Our aim is to support parents as their children's first and most important educators by involving them in their children's education and in the full life of the setting. We also aim to support parents in their own continuing education and personal development.

Some parents are less well represented in early years settings; these include fathers, parents who live apart from their children but who still play a part in their lives as well as working parents. In carrying out the following procedures, we will ensure all parents are included.

When we refer to 'parents' we mean both mothers and fathers; these include both natural or birth parents as well as step-parents and parents who do not live with their children, but have contact with them and play a part in their lives. 'Parents' also includes same sex parents as well as foster parents.

'Parental responsibility' is *all the rights, duties, powers and responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property.* (For a full explanation of who has parental responsibility, refer to the Pre-school Learning Alliance's *Child Protection Record* publication.)

Procedures

- At Panda Playgroup we have a means to ensure all parents are included – that may mean we have different strategies for involving fathers or parents who work or live apart from their children.



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- We consult with all parents to find out what works best for them.
- We ensure ongoing dialogue with parents to improve our knowledge of the needs of their children and to support their families.
- We inform all parents about how the playgroup is run and its policies through access to written information and through regular informal communication. We check to ensure parents understand the information that is given to them.
- We encourage and support parents to play an active part in the governance and management of the playgroup.
- We share with all parents on a regular basis information about their children's progress. This includes an annual written progress review which children, parents and staff contribute to and meet to set agreed next steps for home and Playgroup. This also involves parents having the opportunity to take home learning journals to look at every term.
- We involve parents in the shared record keeping about their children - either formally or informally - and ensure parents have access to their children's written developmental records. Parents have an opportunity to contribute to these records through reviews, star forms, photographs and verbal input.
- We provide opportunities for and encourage parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the playgroup.
- We inform parents about relevant conferences, workshops and training.
- We consult with parents about the times of meetings to avoid excluding anyone.
- We provide information about opportunities to be involved in the playgroup in ways that are accessible to parents with basic skills needs, or those for whom English is an additional language.
- We hold meetings in venues that are accessible and appropriate for all.
- We welcome the contributions of parents, in whatever form these may take.
- We inform all parents of the systems for registering queries, complaints or suggestions and check to ensure these are understood. All parents have access to our written complaints procedure.
- We provide opportunities for parents to learn about the curriculum offered in the setting and about young children's learning, in the setting and at home.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Panda Playgroup held on:
Date to be reviewed:



Signed on behalf of the management committee:
Name and role of signatory:

Signed on behalf of the staff team:
Name and role of signatory:

