

Parent-preschool partnership guide: ECDAâ??s free checklist for parents and teachers

Description

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Parent-preschool partnership guide: that is the plain name for ECDAâ??s â??We Are Wonderful Partners!â?• guide, and it is free for any parent to read. It spells out what you can do, what your childâ??s teachers can do and what preschool leaders should do. It is built on three values: trust, respect and empathy.

If you have ever hesitated before messaging a teacher, or wondered what is fair to expect, this is worth ten minutes.

"We Are Wonderful Partners!" Parent-Preschool Partnership Guide

Research shows that an "environment of relationships" and collaboration between educators, fam
children's holistic development in the early years. Grounded in **trust, respect, and empathy**, sustai
helps ensure continuity in learning and consistency of care for each child.

This guide supports parent-preschool partnerships by establishing a shared understanding of the
collaboration. It can help you understand your role and explore practical ways to build a strong pa

FOR PARENTS

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educators as professionals.

- Support your child's learning at home in line with recommendations and advice from educators.
- Maintain regular, open conversations, sharing concerns directly and calmly to support timely discussion.

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Parents are important members of the community who strengthen the learning environment for all children.

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Empower today, SHAPE our tomorrow

Early Childhood Development Agency

Source: Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA)

Why ECDA made a parent-preschool partnership guide

ECDA launched the guide in July 2026, co-created with parents, educators, preschool operators and sector partners. Minister of State for Social and Family Development Goh Pei Ming launched it. It supports ECDAâ??s Quality Preschools 2030 plan.

A Preschool Experience Survey in November 2025 shaped it. Of the parents surveyed, 57 per cent wanted clearer roles and expectations. Another 46 per cent wanted practical resources for learning at home, and 42 per cent wanted structured ways to get involved.

What the guide asks of parents

The poster for parents sums up the role as being an active, constructive partner, so learning carries on at home and in preschool. It sorts the advice under three headings.

- Trust educators as professionals. Support your childâ??s learning at home in line with the educatorsâ?? advice, and keep conversations regular and open, raising concerns directly and calmly.
- Respect the expertise of educators and the preschoolâ??s philosophy. Follow set procedures such as drop-off routines, meal policies and behaviour management approaches, and make suggestions constructively.
- Empathise with educatorsâ?? challenges. Managing a classroom of young children is hard, so approach issues with patience and use official channels during working hours.

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That last point will ring a bell for anyone in a busy class WhatsApp group at 10pm. Official channels and working hours protect teachers, and they also get you a more considered reply.

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FOR EDUCATORS

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parents as their child's first teachers.

- Establish shared expectations and goals for children's development during orientations and parent-teacher meetings.
- Maintain open, regular communication with parents. When challenges arise, work together to co-create solutions in the child's best interests.

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Beyond drop-off and pick-up

The guide also says parents are important members of the preschool community. You are encouraged to join events such as concerts, sports days and cultural celebrations when you can. You can also volunteer, share a skill, or simply be a welcoming presence.

Not every family can show up on a Wednesday morning, and the guide does not pretend otherwise. The words are â??when you canâ?•. Leaders are asked to design involvement that suits different availability and comfort levels, so ask your centre what options exist.

What educators and leaders have promised in return

The educatorsâ?? version mirrors yours. They are asked to trust parents as their childâ??s first teachers, respect your views on your childâ??s needs and family situation, and keep you informed about development. When conflicts come up, the guide says to approach them with patience and work on solutions that serve the childâ??s best interests.

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FOR LEADERS AND OPERATORS

Your role is to create an en
partnerships can flourish,
supported and valued in yo

Here are some ways that y

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Create conditions fo trust and transparen

- Establish clear communication policies
channels for parent-educator interacti
systems and processes that keep paren
about their child's progress and presch

- Ensure staff have adequate time and t
build meaningful relationships with fam

Support collaborati problem-solving

- Establish clear processes for constructi
concerns and resolving conflicts, includ
for parent feedback and input.

- Equip staff with training and resources
handle difficult conversations with pare

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For leaders and operators, the ask is to create the conditions for this to work. That includes clear communication policies, multiple channels for parent-educator contact, and training so staff can handle difficult conversations. It also covers policies that accommodate diverse family needs and cultural backgrounds.

Those lines give you something concrete to point to. If your centre has no clear way to share concerns, you can ask politely how it plans to follow the guide.

How to get your copy

- Physical resource packages are being distributed to about 1,800 preschools across Singapore.
- Digital copies can be shared through your childâ??s preschool communication channels.
- More information is at go.gov.sg/wearewonderfulpartners, which leads to ECDAâ??s parent-preschool partnership page with separate tabs for parents, educators, and leaders and operators.

The tone is encouraging, not a rulebook, and it is the same advice a good teacher might give you over coffee. Print the parentsâ?? page and stick it on the fridge if that helps.

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Related reading on LBRD: the MOE Kindergarten full-day model, how to link your childâ??s MyActiveSG+ account, and Money Town at Childrenâ??s Museum Singapore.

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