# Family Engagement Policy

Stepping Stones Nursery recognises that families and children have an important part to play in the nursery. Our aim is to develop an honest, open and supportive relationship which complements life in your home and within your wider family.

* Children, families and staff will be given the opportunity to express their views and for those views to be listened to;
* Methods of involvement will be accessible and relevant to all and take account of sensitivities;
* The views of children, families and staff will be recognised and will be reflected in nursery practice.

**Stepping stones will aim to encourage parental participation by:**

* promoting learning at home;
* improving the home/school partnership**;**
* encouraging familial representation.
* Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006

We promote an open-door policy by:

* Providing parents with information before their child starts, e.g. admission procedures, handbook.
* Working with parents to build up a picture of the child’s development needs on starting the Nursery
* Ensuring that parents are aware of the system and policies operating within the setting.
* Ensuring the settling in process meets the needs of the child and family
* Informing parents regularly about their child’s progress, through informal day-to-day chats and more formal meetings and discussion (if applicable).
* Making sure that parents are kept well informed of events, planned programmes of learning opportunities and meetings through notice boards, e-mails, Seesaw etc
* Ensuring the setting policies and procedures are accessible to all (both online and paper copies)
* Acknowledging and recording any information from parents about their child that may affect any aspects of child development.
* Informing and involving parents in the transition process to primary school

**Families are encouraged to become involved in the setting in each or one of the following ways:**

* Being active in the establishment of a Family/Nursery relationship.
* Talking to staff about their child, their interests and their learning.
* Asking questions about the daily activities within the setting.
* Suggesting activities, interests, topics they would like staff to consider when planning activities at the nursery.
* Maintaining an interest in the running of the nursery, reading all notices and emails, keeping up to date with social media, attending meetings, responding to surveys etc.
* Attending formal and informal functions/meetings arranged by the nursery.
* Contributing to the policies and procedures review process when asked through our numerous communication channels.
* When possible being involved in our excursions.
* Having opportunities to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the setting.

**Children’s involvement**

Participation is a fundamental human right, enshrined in article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Stepping Stones will promote child participation by:

* Recognising the children as partners in the planning of the setting.
* Understanding the importance of listening to the children and letting them know their views are valued.
* Providing environments in which all children feel confident and safe, thus ensuring they have the time and space to express themselves in whatever form suits them.
* Developing a listening culture which nurtures day to day listening and provides opportunities for young children to make decisions about matters that directly affect them.

**This policy was written taking the following into consideration:**

* Scottish School (Parental Involvement) Act 2006

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2006/8/contents>

* Parents as partners in their children’s learning -

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/Documents/parents-as-partners-toolkit.pdf>

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| UNCRC  | 3 |
| Health and Social Care Standards | 1.6, 1.9, 1.10, 2.6, 2.11, 4.3, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8 |

As a staff team we are committed to reviewing and updating our policies annually

This policy was last reviewed on 11/01/2023

Signed: Mo King (Manager)