

SUPPORTING CREATIVITY

Good adult model children HOW to think, NOT WHAT to think (or do).

Encouraging the children to:

- explore materials,
- try different approaches to tasks, particularly when persistently experiencing difficulties,
- ensuring the children are undertaking the tasks as independently as possible, and
- using open-ended questions, are all methods of encouraging creativity in thought and actions.

Conversation will soon flow if you use questions and comments such as these:

"So, what's your plan here?"

"Please tell me more about that"

"That looks like fun. What are you doing here."

"Wow, what do you think about that!"

"What do you think might happen if.....?"

HELPFUL HINTS



- Do not wear your best clothes! Wear comfortable clothing and be prepared to get messy. Low, soft soled shoes are requested too.
- Do not be afraid to ask staff for help, guidance or explanations.
- Just play and talk naturally with the children.
- Be firm and follow the lead of the staff in being assertive yet friendly with the children.
- Encourage the children to tidy up as they go along.
- Report any accidents, illness or incidents to staff.

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN'T DO?

For child protection reasons you will always carry out an activity with a staff member present.

The staff should be the adult who take children to the toilet or change their underwear.... this is to protect you.

(Staff have ultimate responsibility and can therefore be more intimate with the children than you.)

**Most importantly,
enjoy yourself!**



INTERNATIONAL
KINDERGARTENS
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Abacus □ Hillside
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ESF International Kindergartens



Parent Volunteers

Helping at
Kindergarten



Oct 2011



HELPING AT KINDERGARTEN

WHY SHOULD I?

- It is a good chance to see what the children are learning in kindergarten.
- You will learn about how children learn - stages of growth and expectations.
- You will get to know your child's friends and perhaps their parents.
- You may pick up tips about managing young children.
- The more adults there are around, the more activities we can offer the children to explore and undertake.

CONFIDENTIALITY

- It is important that you do not talk about particular children or incidents that happen at kindergarten - we need you to respect the rights of others, just as we protect the rights of your child.
- Also, please understand that the teacher's first priority and attention is to the children. Long parent discussions are not possible during session times but can be organised for a more suitable time.



HOW MIGHT I FEEL?

Apprehensive and wary! This is understandable but here is a comment from those who have given it a try...

'Very appreciative, well accepted, a relaxed member of the team. We really enjoy helping and it has helped us socially as well.'

Some parents are anxious that their child may react differently in their presence. On occasions this does occur but the teacher will be in close proximity to guide you and your child in this regard. The more often you come along, the less likely this is to be an on-going issue.

GENERAL ROUTINE

- We do have a basic daily timetable. On your arrival, the teacher will make you aware of this and guide you towards ways you can help and join in.
- We particularly seek your help with regards to: circle-time, transitional movement of small groups around the kindergarten and with general supervision of the children when engaged in play.
- We understand that most of you have a busy schedule; hence, don't feel obliged to come regularly. If you wish to come on particular days only, just inform your child's class teacher in advance. If you are able to come regularly (i.e. weekly or fortnightly), we would love to put you on a parent volunteer rota.
- Please make sure you call in advance if you cannot come in so the teachers can make alternative plans

WHAT WILL I DO?

- Talk and play with the children, look at books together or join in with the activities.
- Help when needed - fastening aprons, changing shoes, putting fleeces on, etc.
- Encourage the children to play with activities that may be new to them.
- Interact with the children and be mindful of the safety aspects at the various activities.
- Join in with the tidying-up at the end of a session and help the children with their work.
- Talk in English as much as possible and generally be a positive role-model.
- Some times throughout the year, we attend neighbourhood walks/visits. On these occasions, (with staff) we particularly seek your assistance with walking alongside the children to and from our destination, and be part of the educational fun!!

