



Engaging
parents in ELC
- why it
matters

Why engage parents in ELC?



- Almost 1 in 4 children in Scotland live in poverty (CPAG)
- The gap starts early -the cognitive gap is already there at age 3 and persists at age 5 (GUS)
- The importance of the early years in development
- Establishing behaviours

Why engage parents in ELC?



‘Little of the variation in student achievement in Scotland is associated with the ways in which schools differ...

Who you are in Scotland is far more important than what school you attend...

Socio economic status is the most important difference between individuals’

OECD 2007

What are the enablers?



Parents!



What are the barriers?

- Parents don't know how important their role in their child's learning is
- Parents don't have the same knowledge of the evidence as ELC workers
- Parents don't know what to do
- Practical barriers – time (work), costs, space
- Different groups of parents and their needs

Overcoming the barriers?



Families are unique – no one size fits all. Work with families to discover what works for them!

- Parents as partners – finding out what matters to families
- Consultation and dialogue
- Sharing information with parents – practical and pedagogical
- Considering the needs of different groups of parents

Where next?

- **What are we doing now?**
- **What could we do better?**
- **What would help? What do we need?**



**Parental engagement:
Developing embedded practice**

**Anthony O'Malley
Project Officer**



CHANGE: A brief history

- Working in Glasgow East to reduce barriers families face around access to childcare
- Community engagement focus – emergence of relationship-based practice

Parental engagement: Examples from practice in a nursery

Parental engagement Underpinning practice		
Understanding the needs of the whole family	Meaningful engagement – pathways to quality	Wellbeing and relationship-based practice

Parental engagement: Examples from practice in a school

Parental engagement Underpinning practice		
Understanding the needs of the whole family	Space given up by staff for use by families	Relationships with family support services