

Early Learning

Community Partnership Policy

Overarching Statement

The *Keeping Children Safe Policy* of the Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania (refer to *Sources*) is the overarching whole of church policy to be implemented by individuals and entities involved with or connected to the Uniting Church. All children who are involved in any of the Church's activities, events or programs have a right to feel and be safe. The Church is committed to provide safe environments where children are cared for, respected, nurtured and sustained.

This procedure **MUST** be read in conjunction *with Uniting Collaborative Partnerships & Sponsorship Relationships Policy (Level 2)*

Policy Statement

Uniting Early Learning is committed to:

- Developing collaborative partnerships with all stakeholders.
- Supporting a collective approach to improve outcomes for children.
- Facilitating respectful relationships that enable a coordinated approach toward service delivery.
- Genuine and authentic family and community engagement.

Executive Summary

A collective approach to service delivery is required to enable quality learning, development and wellbeing outcomes for children. Further, children develop their identity within the context of their local community. Early learning services have a responsibility to encourage and model active community engagement for children to be citizens of the world. Building and maintaining reciprocal relationships with the local community will facilitate stakeholders to have a voice, so that service delivery can reflect the uniqueness of each individual local community, and incorporate families' expertise, culture, values and beliefs. Engagement strategies developed will reflect the capacity and ability level for involvement in service decision-making and delivery.

DOCUMENT TITLE & NUMBER	COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP POLICY			
Content Owner	Early Learning Services – Head of Early Learning			Page 1 of 3
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Current Environmental Context

Uniting Early Learning (as the Approved Provider and management body) delivers a range of early learning programs and stakeholder involvement will be reflective of the local service delivery model. Families, as a key stakeholder will be provided with opportunities for shared decision making about their child's learning and wellbeing to influence program development. A range of participation strategies will be available to enable families to inform and be informed, consulted, partner, initiate and collaborate to enable the transition from parent involvement to family engagement to cultivate a holistic learning environment.

Attachment 20a: Responsibilities relating to the Early Years Management Partnership

Attachment 20b: Parent Advisory Group role

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Reference/Sources

- *Authentic Engagement: The nature and role of the relationship at the heart of effective practice.*
T.G. Moore, 2017. Centre for Community Child Health. Keynote address at ARACY Parent Engagement Conference "Maximising every child's potential. Melbourne, 7th June.
- *Children's Services Act 1996,*
- *Children's Services Regulation 2009,* R31, 73, 111, 155, 157, 160
- *Early Years Management Policy Framework Part 1 and 2* Department of Education and Training 2016
- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010:* S3 (3), 168
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011:* Regulations 75,
- *National Quality Standard, Quality Area 6*
- *Tasmanian Licensing Standards for Centre Based Child Care Class 5* (October 2014).

Authorisation

This policy was adopted by Uniting Early Learning on: 02/07/2018

Review

This policy is to be reviewed by 30/07/2020

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