

Group discussion: reporting back to plenary

Session 5 “Governance, funding and sectoral and vertical co-operation”

GROUP 1 (federal countries)
9th OECD ECEC Network Meeting on
“Family and community engagement”

What are the challenges?

Governance and sectoral/vertical co-operation

- Division of responsibilities regarding child-rearing (governance level, which services included, staff responsibility, only parental responsibility?)
- Communication and awareness-raising among different sectors and families regarding importance of parental involvement
- Balance of informing versus not being too directive
- Different types of services for different needs: challenge in including parental involvement
- The meaning of parental involvement (can be unclear or without clear goals)

What strategies have been taken

- Putting parental engagement in a legal framework
- Co-constructive partnerships
- Introduction term for parents
- Observation by staff of parent-child interactions
- Meetings at centre
- Increasing visibility: websites and telephone hotline
- Home visiting and home-based programmes (HIPPY) with shared responsibility between staff and parents
- Bids for funding for programmes that co-operate with community services and parents

What worked?

- Not being too directive towards parents
- Clear communication
- Regular communication
- Having clear goals and meanings of parental involvement
- Establishing partnerships (co-operations)