

WHAT DOES PARENT PARTICIPATION MEAN?

Parent Participation is... Participating in your child's education and getting involved. It may be in your child's classroom or outside of the classroom as a volunteer.

Research shows that parents that participate in their children's education have children that are more likely to excel in school, go to college and be productive adults.

How should I participate?

In your child's classroom and school: Be an active participant in the class get involved in the activities. Participating in the class and program will support your parenting skills and knowledge of young children.

Get involved in the Parent Teacher Organization, school boards, fundraising committees and improving the school.

Attend special events at the school. This is a great way to become part of the community.

Volunteer in the classroom to support the teacher and to interact and spend time with your child.

What shall I do with my child?

Whenever possible, place yourself at child's level. Use direct eye contact when speaking with young children. Be patient when talking with children.

Your child is a capable person with a strong desire to do things for themselves. Allow them to be as independent as possible.

This environment is a child's place – a place for the child to learn how to be with peers, play by oneself, to become autonomous and independent. Take your child's lead in the classroom.

How can I work with my child's teacher?

Teachers at Desert Sun are educated and experienced professionals, who continue their growth in early childhood development through 20 hours of continuing education each year.

The teacher will be the class facilitator. She will ensure the program's smooth flow and assume responsibility for organizing, setting up and cleaning the classroom environment. The teacher will give you direction when help is needed. Otherwise, follow your child's lead and play and extend the learning opportunities

Parents are experts on their children in the home setting and the teacher will do her utmost to support each parent in the school setting. Teachers are the experts on general child behavior in a school setting. Parents will want to do their best to support each teacher. Together they will do their best in their vital roles.

Any feedback you can offer that will serve to improve and design the classes and parent meetings to suit your needs will be greatly appreciated.

Desert Sun general rules:

Please do not share with other parents incidences that happened at school. You may have heard only part of the story. If a teacher is concerned about an incident she will contact the parent immediately. As seasoned professionals we understand the development and growth stages of young children. Something that might seem “different” to a parent might be “developmentally appropriate”. If you are concerned, please speak with the teacher.

Please do not share stories about any child or speak negatively in front of a child. They could misunderstand what you are saying and they may think they did something wrong. Contact the teacher after class hours to discuss any issue you may have.

Please keep adult conversation outside of the classroom. Adult conversation in the classroom is very disruptive to the classroom environment. Interaction and conversation should be between adults and children.

Do not make a model for young children. For example: play dough, art etc.,. Children need to use their own creative minds when working with materials. Children cannot replicate adult work and this is frustrating to them and will stop the learning process.

Turn off your cell phone when entering the school. Give the school number if need and the office will find you if you have a phone call. 480-831-1718

Most important, enjoy your children and cherish every moment.

Supportive Suggestions:

- Listen, and get down to child level.
- Expect the best. **Positive Intent!**
- Accept a child’s explanation. Let the child tell you what they know. Ask open-ended questions. Expand on the learning opportunities.
- Give choices, when possible.
- State limits positively and firmly. State the behavior you want to see. For example: “When you want a toy, ask your friend if you can have a turn when they are finished”.
- Avoid putting **OK** at the end of a request. Asking ok gives the child a choice.
- Rely on your own judgment with safety and health concerns. If you are not comfortable with a situation seek out a teacher or an administrator.
- Enjoy your time in the class with your child!

Remember, learning is a journey, it is not a race – it continues for a lifetime

