

Sharing curriculum updates with parents (3-6 years)

Sharing regular updates with parents on their children's interests and experiences in the setting, encourages and helps parents to be actively involved in their children's learning and development. These updates also enable parents to contribute to the curriculum. The *Curriculum Update Template* (page 3), can assist you in sharing information on the curriculum with parents.

Using the template

Having a notice-board outside your room is a great way to share information on the emergent curriculum with parents. You can use this template to create curriculum updates for display on the notice-board along with photos and drawings.

1. Starting point: Use this box to **briefly** note an inquiry or interest that occurred. See the sample on page 2.

2. What we did next: Use this box to jot down quick thoughts on how this interest **might** develop, based on the observation or conversation, your knowledge of the children and other interests that they've had. The update is added to as the interest evolves. Note also the day or date when additions are made to the template.

3. Resources: Use this box to note any requests for materials from home, and as before, note the day or date.

4. Updates on what happened and what we can do next: Use this box to keep parents updated on the 'story' of the inquiry.

5. Parent's Comments: Parents can record their comments in this box.

When complete, the curriculum update can be added, if you wish, to the Group Learning Journal to show how the interest arose and how practitioners responded to that interest and extended children's learning and development. Children's drawings, photographs and practitioners' notes can also be added to the journal. Parents can be encouraged to look at the journal and the update can be linked to *Aistear's* themes.

Group Pre-school

Date DD/MM/YY 20/04/2014

1. Starting point (description/photo of what happened to prompt the interest)

Shane told us about his trip to the beach yesterday and what he saw. Other children were at different beaches. Orlaith told us about Spain.

2. What we did next

Monday: We will extend the sand area and use the paddling pool. We have some books about the sea side.

Wednesday: We're going to explore kites. Darragh told us about the man in the kite he saw (hang-glider) and we'll look for photos about hang-glidering. We'll try to make a kite ourselves and hope it's windy later in the week!

3. Resources

Any spare buckets and spades?
Other beach-type materials? Driftwood... Shells...
Anybody know how to make a kite? Would you have a spare half-hour to show us?
Any kites at home?

4. Updates on what happened and what we can do next

Tuesday: Thanks to Darragh's Dad for telling us about the kite....

Sand and water are forgotten, it's all about wind and kites now!

Wednesday: We put streamers on a stick and watched the direction of the wind blowing.

Thursday: Danika said a hairdryer makes wind and she borrowed her Mammy's to show us.

Friday: Orlaith told us about some fans she saw in Spain and brought them in.

5. Parents' comments

Shane loved the seaweed... He had a ball trailing the long one in the water and on the sand.

Darragh thought the breeze was great and we put a plastic bag on a stick to make a 'kite'.

Group

Date

DD/MM/YY

1. Starting point (description/photo of what happened to prompt the interest)

2. What we did next

3. Resources

4. Updates on what happened and what we can do next

5. Parents' comments