

Connecting with your Community

Family Day Care may be challenging at times due to isolation. It is sometimes hard to build connections between your setting and your local community.

When Educators promote a sense of community and give the children opportunities to explore the culture, diversity and heritage, and broaden their knowledge of their community, they are assisting the children to achieve Early Years Learning Framework:

OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN ARE CONNECTED WITH AND CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR WORLD

Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation

Below are some samples of interactive displays that you could use to provoke and inspire conversations about your local community. You could include places that you visit during excursions or invite families to send in photos of places they visit in their community.

You could include a picture of your local fire station, police station or hospital. You could include pictures of landmarks and important places that belong to your community.



Children created their own houses using clay to add to the display.



Families were asked to bring in photos of their houses, which were then used in the building area. A great way to practice partnerships are family involvement.

BELONGING

Experiencing *belonging* – knowing where and with whom you belong – is integral to human existence. Children belong first to a family, a cultural group, a neighbourhood and a wider community. *Belonging* acknowledges children's interdependence with others and the basis of relationships in defining identities. In early childhood, and throughout life, relationships are crucial to a sense of *belonging*. *Belonging* is central to *being* and *becoming* in that it shapes who children are and who they can become.

Early Years Learning Framework

Display Samples are from Pinterest 'Connecting with Community'. Next month we will post more ideas for Belonging to your community. Feel free to post your ideas too!