
Activity 1

Making the most of your community

Purpose

- To identify the resources that are available to support children's learning in the community
- To share this information with parents through a community directory or a community learning showcase

Who will be involved

- Parent Advisory Council, students
 - School staff
 - Family Learning or Community Learning and Development teams
 - This might be an activity you could undertake with other schools in your area as a joint activity
-

Step 1: Identify key organisations and community groups

Draw up a list of all the organisations, individuals, and groups that members of the school community are already involved in or aware of, who may have an interest in the school. If the Parent Advisory Council, Student Council and Staff Team each produce their own list, this should cover most of the groups and organisations. This will help you identify sources of information already available and will prevent duplication.

The list might include:

- Children's groups; pre-school groups, after school clubs, youth groups
 - Sports clubs/activities for children and adults
 - Religious and cultural groups and organisations
 - Voluntary and community groups
 - Libraries, health services
 - Community and adult learning providers
 - People who represent the community, such as councillors
-

Step 2: Identify those who could help the school, its pupils and parents

Discuss how they already contribute to the work of the school and how their role might be developed. You will have a long list and might want to organise it in some way by grouping them together. Identify those you feel most closely support what the school is trying to achieve and which support parents and promote children's learning and development in the community.

Step 3: Share your findings with parents and students

Invite these groups to a community showcase where they can display information about their organisation and tell others about what they do. Invite all parents and pupils and encourage them to come along and find out what is available in their community.

Step 4: Prepare a community directory

Ask the groups to write a short paragraph on what they do to support children's learning and development and collate these into a Community Learning Directory – make sure not to duplicate resources already available. Make this widely available to students, parents and staff.

These materials were adapted from "Parents as Partners in their Children's Learning" produced by The Scottish Government, Crown Copyright 2006. Website:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/07091311>