

5 ways to support collaborative play

When exploring collaborative play in the service often this is a challenge with mixed age groups because of the way services are set up. Here are some tips for element 5.2.1 of the NQS...



Make the most out of family grouping times

An often under-utilised part of the curriculum in long day care is the morning and evening when children are grouped together before they go to their own rooms. Instead of focusing on all the tasks that need to be done such as cleaning, setting up, meals etc., try to notice learning across the ages.



Working on service projects

Look out for opportunities when children in different rooms can contribute to the same project at their level e.g. making garden bed with the older children designing it and even making it, and younger children helping choose plants they prefer and put them in the garden.



Know what is happening in the other rooms

Work together as a team to share what is happening in your rooms to see if there are opportunities to share ideas or help out in the other rooms. This might be helping older children learn respect by helping with meal times in the nursery, or toddlers learning about topics from the pre-schoolers



Utilising children as role models

Encourage children to look to each other as role models through the service. This might be within the room or across the rooms. Children might help set up beds, prepare for meals, set up and pack away environments. This way other children can learn from their role models.



Moving beyond group time

Group time is not necessarily the best way to explore collaborative learning, particularly as a large group, because it is hard to give each child a voice. Reflect on your approaches to collaborative learning and ways that you can demonstrate this in your service.