

A Few Parting Thoughts...

At Gee Whiz, we recognize how hard providers work every day. We know that running a business and being responsible for the health, well-being and education of a mixed-age group of children is challenge...to say the least! We also know that while there may be times that working as partners with families can be challenging, it is also VERY important. Here are just a few parting thoughts:

Make sure your expectations and policies are crystal clear from day one

What do you expect from your families? What are your payment policies? What happens when a child gets sick during the day? What defines a child as "sick?" These are all important questions that you need to answer in writing and then share with families as they interview for your program. When policies and expectations are clear, there is much less chance for misunderstandings or misinterpretations. Does this mean that you will never have a misunderstanding with parents/guardians? Of course not! But, it does mean that the likelihood will be reduced.

Start and end the day with a smile!

We know. We know. Some days this is can be very hard but it is also very important. It is very hard for others to be angry, disagreeable or irritated with you if you have a smile on your face. For the benefit of all the children in your group, if you've had a bad day, wait until the last child leaves to stomp your feet and grumble.

Deal with issues when they occur but NOT in front of children.

When issues arise ... and they will ... plan a time to sit down with parents to discuss them but NOT in front of the children and NOT during drop off/pick up. This is very important. Pick up and drop off are hectic, busy and sometimes stressful times for children, parents and you. They are not the time to deal with potential issues or problems. Instead, make a phone call to discuss when might be a good time to sit down face to face to talk about concerns. This is a two-way street! Parents should feel empowered to reach out to you at any time when they might have a concern as well. When this happens, the door to communication is wide open and the child will definitely benefit.

Help parents/guardians embrace their role as their child's first teacher.

In addition to the tools supplied in the Gee Whiz curriculum, give parents/guardians ideas of things they can do to further learning and development at home during family time. Even a simple trip to the grocery store can be a wonderful learning experience! Quick notes, emails or even your own personal monthly newsletter are great ways to achieve this goal. One of the most powerful things you can encourage families to do is read together... every single day! Remember, your role is not just educator of children but supporter of families as well.

